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**HYDE**

**Equitable Co-operative  
Society Limited.**

**1862**

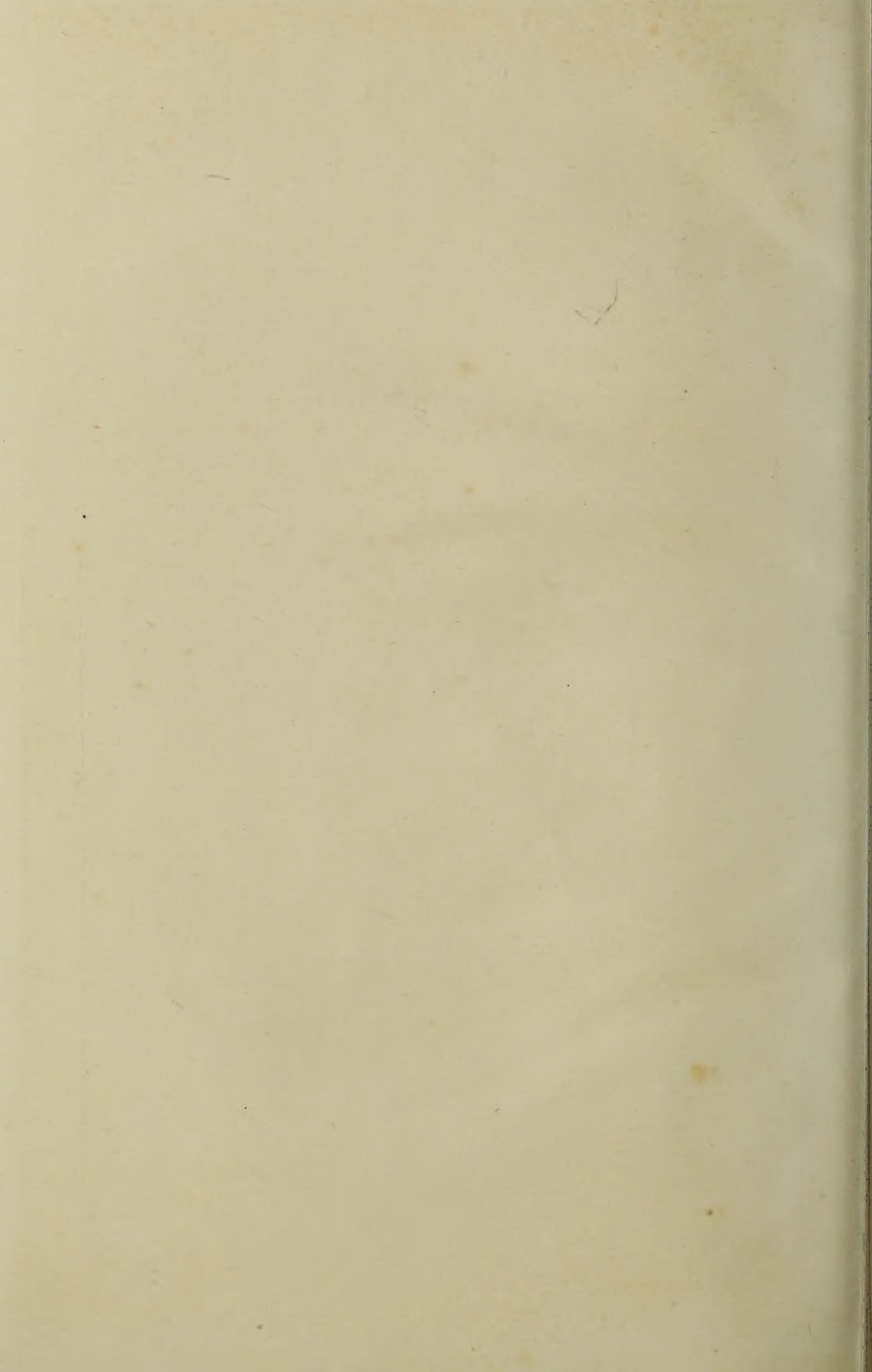


**1912**

**Jubilee History**



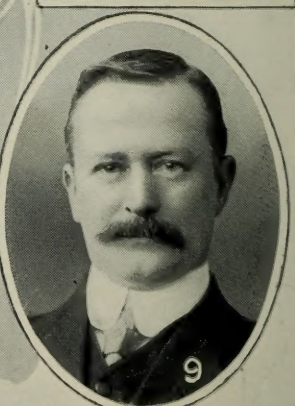
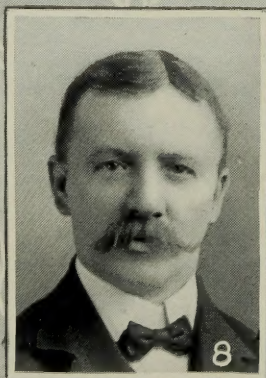
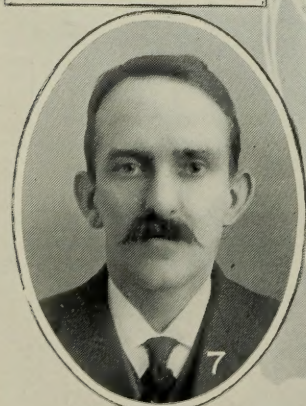
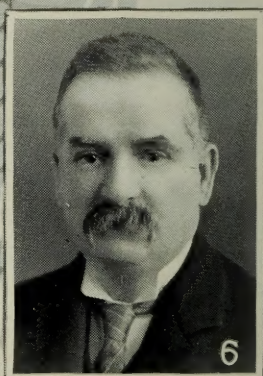
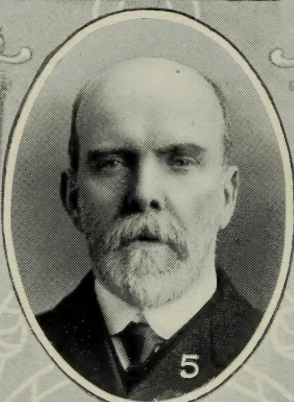
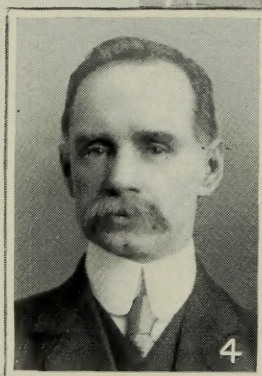
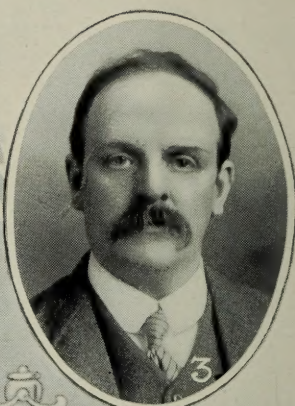
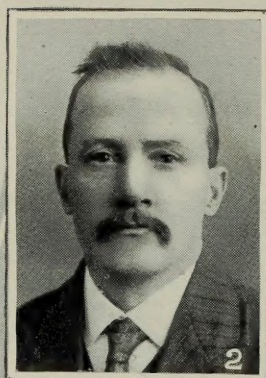
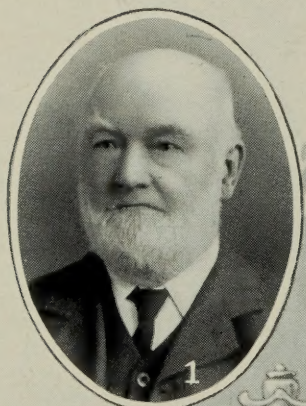






THE HYDE  
EQUITABLE CO-OPERATIVE  
SOCIETY LIMITED.

GENERAL BOARD.



1—J. BUNTING. 2—T. JONES. 3—P. MARSHALL. 4—A. MOORES. 5—A. SHAW, J.P., *President*.  
6—T. HEGINBOTTOM. 7.—J. OLDHAM. 8—R. A. GREEN. 9.—J. MOTTRAM.

# JUBILEE HISTORY

OF

THE HYDE  
EQUITABLE CO-OPERATIVE  
SOCIETY LIMITED.

1862-1912.

BY

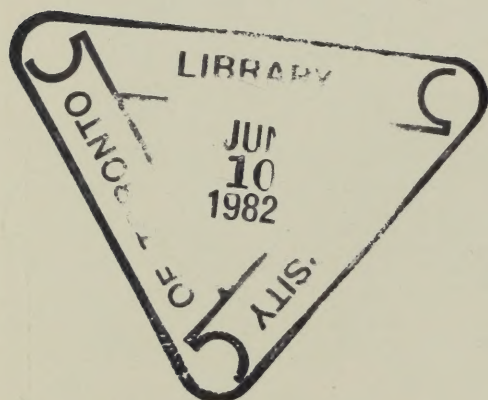
THOMAS JONES.  
JOSEPH RHODES.

December, 1912.

MANCHESTER:

Co-operative Wholesale Society's Printing Works, Hamilton Road, Longsight.





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1912



## Preface.

IN writing this historical survey of the fifty years' existence of the Hyde Equitable Co-operative Society, we have thought it necessary to give a brief outline of events prior to the inception of the co-operative ideal by the Rochdale Pioneers, so that our younger readers may gain an insight into the position of the workers at the close of the eighteenth and the early years of the nineteenth century. This volume is the result of much research and inquiry. Our task has been rendered more difficult by the fact that no minutes from 1862 to 1866 and 1881 to 1886 have been available. This has necessitated frequent visits to the files of local and other newspapers.

In this connection we are much indebted and tender our sincere thanks to the Co-operative Union Limited for allowing us to search through the *Co-operator*, an early co-operative magazine; to Messrs. John Higham and Co. Limited for allowing us to see the files of the *North Cheshire Herald*; to Messrs. J. Andrew and Co., proprietors of the *Ashton and Hyde Reporter*, for similar facilities; and to the Co-operative Newspaper Society Limited for information in connection with various events in the Society's history.

We are also indebted to Mr. A. Shaw, J.P. (President), Mr. R. Rose (Secretary), Mr. A. H. Booth (General Manager) and Mr. A. Moores for many kindnesses, suggestions, and other information which they have willingly placed at our disposal.

We also wish to record our thanks and gratitude to all those old members and friends of the Society who have kindly loaned photographs of past workers and given much useful verbal information.

The Photos of the Society's premises and of the present Committee and Officials are by Mr. A. E. Searle, Hyde.

For any shortcomings in this volume we ask our readers' kindly indulgence. We dedicate our best intentions and efforts in this history to all past and present members of the Society.

THOMAS JONES.  
JOSEPH RHODES.

# Contents.

CHAPTER.	PAGE.
Preface .....	5
I. Conditions Prevailing in England at the Opening of the Nineteenth Century—Hard Lot of the Workers—Robert Owen—Inception of the Co-operative Idea—Brief Historical Outline of Co-operation before 1862	9
II. First Co-operative Company in Hyde—The Brighton or Union Shop at Flowery Field .....	21
III. The Inception of the Hyde Equitable Co-operative Society Limited—Its Early Influences and Difficulties—Men who were True to the Call—First Balance Sheet—First Tea Party—More New Members—Commission Business—Investing in Loans—First Cheap Trip—Revision of Rules—Hours of Opening and Closing Shops.....	23
IV. The Society becomes a "Corporate Body"—Reserve Fund and Depreciation—Boot and Shoe Business Commenced—The Society Loses £1,100—Trying Times—Laxity of Officials in Keeping the Accounts—The Storm Weathered, and the Society again forges ahead—Drapery Business Commenced—First Truck of Coal Arrives—First Branch Opened at Newton—Bad Times again Encountered—The Society again Joins the Co-operative Wholesale Society—Tailoring Business Commenced—Branch Opened at Gee Cross	40
V. Purchase of Property in Market Street and Charles Street—A Member of the Society Elected a Co-operative Wholesale Society Director—Small Savings Bank Commenced—Another Revision of Rules—Purchase of Property in Hyde Lane and Queen Street—Opening of the Hyde Lane Grocery Branch—Bi-Quarterly Meetings Commenced—Opening of Central Butchering—Appleby and Wood appointed Auditors—Cottage Building Department Commenced—Butchering Branch at Gee Cross—Mr. R. Rose appointed Secretary—Mr. W. H. Stott appointed Manager—Banking Transferred to the Co-operative Wholesale Society—Shares taken in Manchester Ship Canal—Opening of Commercial Street and Mottram Road, Dukinfield, and Stockport Road Branches—Butchering Department included in General Dividend—Erection of Warehouse—Coal Business Reorganised—Hyde Colliery Explosion.....	60

CHAPTER.	PAGE.
VI. Farming—Employees' Cricket Club—Colne Vale Shares—Depreciation of Ship Canal Shares—Erection of New Premises in Commercial Street—Distress in the Town—Grant to Free Library and Technical School—Branch Opened in Newton Wood—Members Demand a Larger Dividend—Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employees' Minimum Wage Adopted—Alteration of Central Departments—Branch at Flowery Field—Public Opening—First Children's Gala—Revision of Rules.....	80
VII. The Society caters for the Local Coronation Festivities of Edward VII.—Help given to Distressed Members—Shares taken in Hyde Spinning Company—Formation of Co-operative Laundry Association—New Branch Erected in Town Lane Dukinfield—Extensive Alterations to Premises in Hyde Lane—Collective Life Assurance Scheme Adopted—New Check System—Further Revision of Rules—Mr. Allen Shaw, J.P. ....	97
VIII. The Society's Present Position and a few Facts relating thereto .....	116
IX. The Educational Side of the Hyde Equitable Co-operative Society Limited .....	124
X. Hyde Women's Co-operative Guild: Its Formation, and one or two Facts relating to its History.....	135
XI. A Few Thoughts in Conclusion .....	139
XII. A Brief Account of the Jubilee Celebrations.....	140
Appendix .....	148



## Illustrations.

	PAGE:
General Board.....	<i>Frontispiece.</i>
Present Officials .....	19
Central Premises (Grocery, Boots, and Butchering) .....	25
Mr. James Pollitt .....	28
Ex-Presidents .....	33 37
Past Officials.....	41
Newton Branch (Grocery and Butchering, Library, Reading, and Assembly Rooms) .....	45
Gee Cross Grocery Store and Cottage .....	49
Central Drapery and Tailoring .....	53
Hyde Lane Grocery and Butchering ...	57
Newton Cottages.....	61
Mottram Road Grocery and Butchering .....	65
Grocery Warehouse and Slaughter-house ...	69
Interior of Grocery Warehouse.....	73
Railway Street Cottages and Warehouse .....	77
Commercial Street Grocery and Butchering .....	81
Furnace Street Branch Grocery .....	85
Furnace Street Branch Butchering.....	87
Astley Street Cottages, Flowery Field ..	91
Newton Wood Grocery .....	95
Town Lane Branch, Dukinfield (Grocery and Cottage) ...	99
Jeffrey Street Cottages, Dukinfield.....	103
Co-operative Laundry .....	105
Interior of Co-operative Laundry .....	109
Illuminated Address to Mr. Allen Shaw, J.P. . . . .	113
Hyde Lane Drapery and Furnishing .....	117
Queen Street Cottages .....	119
First Educational Committee .....	125
Woodend Farm—Children's Gala.....	129 133
Women's Guild Committee .....	137
Jubilee Committee.....	141
Employees and Jubilee Committee .....	145



## CHAPTER I.

The night is darkest before the morn;  
When the clouds are heavy, then breaks the dawn.  
—C. Kingsley.

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*Conditions Prevailing in England at the Opening of the Nineteenth Century—Hard Lot of the Workers—Robert Owen—Inception of the Co-operative Idea—Brief Historical Outline of Co-operation before 1862.*

FOR the proper survey of the life and work of the co-operative movement (as with the life of a man) it is necessary that the reader should first know something of the conditions under which it was born, and the difficulties with which it had to contend. When the co-operative movement is seen against such a background, despite its many apparent weaknesses and failures, it presents to the mind of man a noble and an elevating picture. It reflects glory and honour upon the thousands of pioneers who have laboured in its service, and it should be to the present generation of co-operators an inspiration for them to press on towards the realisation of their ideals, through the service of their fellow-men.

It has been written that the co-operative movement, as it exists to-day, is a product of the industrial and social conditions which prevailed in England during the closing years of the eighteenth and the opening years of the nineteenth century. The workers' lot during these years was certainly a hard one. The changes that were taking place in the industrial world were being keenly felt. In the early years of the eighteenth century the bulk of the population had been mainly in the villages, the chief industry of the people being agriculture, which was carried on by farmers owning small farms and using simple methods. In manufacture it was the age of "cottage industry;" spinning and weaving went on in the country;

\*“ a spinning wheel was to be found in every cottage and farmhouse in the kingdom—a loom in every village.” This work was often combined with agriculture, and when spinning and weaving were slack agriculture could be taken up. Such had been the average condition of the people since the middle ages. These conditions of life and work were soon, however, to be things of the past, for, commencing with the invention of the flying shuttle by Kay in 1733, there followed in quick succession a remarkable series of inventions in the making of machinery, the method of manufacture and of transport, and the application of steam in a practical manner to industry. These changes were so rapid and so far-reaching in their effect upon the industrial life of the country that they are known as the Industrial Revolution. The worker in the cottage was unable to buy the new and expensive machinery, and even if he had been able to do so he could not have housed it in his small cottage. Special large buildings were erected, and production commenced on a big scale. The worker in the cottage, unable to compete with this increased speed of production, had, perforce, to sell his labour where he could. A cash nexus was substituted for the human nexus, and so began what is now known in industry as the factory system. An early result of the working of this system was that the workers were sweated and ill-treated to an enormous extent. Thorold Rogers in his *Six Centuries of Work and Wages* says “ the twenty-five years beginning in 1796 were the worst years in the whole history of English labour.” The workers were prevented from raising their wages, by means of any form of agreement amongst themselves, by the Combination Acts of 1799 and 1800. That is to say, trade unions as we know them to-day were illegal. They were totally without any organisation, and their employment was scarcely more tolerable than slavery. Perhaps the most distressing feature of this time was the manner in which the children were treated. In a great many cases they took the place of men and

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\* “ Industrial Revolution.”—*Toynbee.*

women in the factories, the new mechanical contrivances lending themselves very readily to child labour—so readily that manufacturers had a difficulty in obtaining sufficient children for their requirements. Balmforth in his *Social and Political Pioneers* says, “an expedient was then resorted to that opens out a dark page in English industrial history. For by the Elizabethan poor law orphans and indigent children were placed in the hands of the parish authorities, who had power to apprentice the children to such work or trade as they deemed suitable. When, then, the supply of child labour in the factories ran short, the manufacturers applied to the overseers of the poor for apprentices.” It was the custom for the master to clothe, house, and feed his apprentices, a house being provided near the factory for this purpose. Overseers were appointed in charge of them, whose duty it was to work the children to the utmost and give them as little food as possible. Cruelty was, of course, the consequence, and there is abundant evidence on record to show that the most heartrending cruelties were inflicted upon these unoffending and friendless creatures, who were thus consigned to the master manufacturers of the time. These apprentices were worked fourteen hours a day, and in busy times relays went from mill to bed, and bed to mill, the same beds being thus occupied day and night. In many cases these children were flogged, tortured, starved, and fettered.

These conditions of labour, along with heavy taxation, bad harvests, and the almost prohibitive tariffs on foreign corn, made the workers' position in the opening years of the nineteenth century almost an unbearable one. Risings, rick burnings, and riots were prevalent all over the country. Meanwhile, England had become the workshop of the world, and landowners, millowners, and merchants were making huge profits as a consequence. The national wealth of the country had increased, *but* at what a price!—the degradation of the manhood, womanhood, and childhood of the working classes. In

the midst of this turmoil, change, and oppression of the workers, we find the inception of the co-operative idea, and the life and labour of Robert Owen its originator.

All around was dim, yet his face glowed  
with light revealed to him.

*George Eliot ("Jubal.")*

Robert Owen was born on May 14th, 1771, in Newtown, North Wales. He soon saw the deadly effects which the early "factory system" inflicted upon the people, and in an endeavour to remedy these injustices, and bring into being a more humane order of society, he undoubtedly spent his life. Derision and scoffing came to him, but he never turned aside. He had lived with the people, and he knew their condition, their fears, their hopes. Young Owen showed a taste for learning, not from books, however, for as G. J. Holyoake says, "His life illustrates how much knowledge a man of observation may acquire without books." At the age of ten he was sent to London, where he worked in various drapery establishments. From London he came to Manchester, where at the age of eighteen he was working at a draper's shop in St. Ann's Square. When nineteen years of age he began his career as a manufacturer, first in partnership producing what are now known as "mules" for cotton spinning, then as a spinner of fine cotton yarn on his own account. From this he went as managing partner in a larger firm. At this time he was recognised as one of the best judges of raw cotton in the country, and it is interesting to note that he worked up the first bale of American Sea Island Cotton imported into this country. On January 1st, 1800, he became managing partner of a cotton mill at New Lanark in Scotland. This was his opportunity, and he at once decided to commence an experiment he had been long anxious to test. This was the effect of environment of character. He set himself to work out the problem of a reformed society. The conditions prevailing at New Lanark, although it had the reputation of being a well-conducted concern, were far from being satisfactory. Pauper children were employed in the mills, and the people generally lived almost without



control, in habits of idleness, drunkenness, misery, debt, and destitution. There was also a ruinous system of credit in operation, shopkeepers buying and selling on credit at high prices. He commenced to sweeten their surroundings by giving orders that no more pauper children should be received. He closed the pothouses, and inculcated the duty of temperance. Wives were taught to make the home more comfortable, and thus help to resist the attractions of the drinking houses. He erected sanitary dwellings for the accommodation of families, and cleaned and brightened up the streets of the village generally. He opened stores, bought for cash and sold at cost price, with a saving for the people of twenty-five per cent. The indifference and opposition with which the people at first met his scheme for their improvement were completely overcome when he paid them over £7,000 in wages during the stoppage of the mills, which lasted for a period of nearly four months in consequence of the embargo placed on the exportation of raw cotton from the United States of America in 1806. He did so much for his workpeople in providing them and their families with free amusements, free education, shorter hours of labour, and good houses, that his partners quarrelled with him; they were opposed to such provisions being made out of the profits. In spite of the opposition of his partners, who in two cases were bought out, he had schools erected, and an infant school, the first of its kind in Great Britain, was started. Owen recognised this fact, that the key of the future lies in the children. Evening classes were provided for adults, as well as a library and a reading room. By such methods he worked out his idea of a reformed community.

In 1819 the township of Leeds sent to New Lanark a deputation, and in their report they expressed themselves as being "delighted with the appearance and conduct of the inhabitants—with the comfort and cleanliness of their dwellings, the neatness of the persons, and apparel of the people—their sobriety, cheerfulness, and piety." Distinguished travellers from all parts of the

world visited New Lanark, all being deeply impressed by what they saw. Nearly 20,000 names were entered in the visitors' book from 1815 to 1825. In 1828, owing to religious and other differences with his partners, Owen left New Lanark, much to his regret. In 1817 he had brought out his idea of a self-supporting community, or "village of union." Various unsuccessful attempts were made to put this idea into practical operation. The early co-operative movement undoubtedly had this as its ultimate ideal. He appealed to the Government and also to the master manufacturers of his day to do something for the workers; failing with these he appealed to the workers themselves. About 1834 Owenism developed into a sect, and paid missionaries were appointed, G. J. Holyoake being the last to act in such a capacity. Owen himself travelled and lectured all over the country. In 1838 he visited Hyde, and delivered three lectures. These were in connection with the opening festivities of the Working Men's Institute. Mr. Tom Middleton in his annals of Hyde says, "In 1838 the Working Men's Institute at Hyde was opened with what has been described as a "three day's fête." On Sunday, the 9th of September, 1838, two sermons were delivered by the Rev. J. Rayner Stephens; on the Monday all the Chartists and secret orders congregated in procession, and on Tuesday three lectures were given by a Mr. Owen of New Lanark. The Working Men's Institute was the building now used as the St. Thomas's School."

It is estimated that about 100,000 people became members of this new sect. "The Society of Rational Religionists" was the name by which they were known. In course of time the energy generated by this social religion split itself up in various directions. Much of it went to build up the modern co-operative movement, some of it drifted into Chartism, and some went to form the Secularist movement. Owen, although now at an advanced age, kept on laying his ideas and views before the people, and it was while attempting to address the annual meeting of the Social Science Association at

Liverpool in 1858 that his voice failed him, and he had to be assisted back to bed. On recovering sufficiently he journeyed to his birthplace in Wales, where a few days afterwards he died at the age of 87, within a few yards of the house where he was born.

As the result of the stimulus given by his teachings there arose Co-operative Societies, Labour Exchanges, Trades Unions, and Labour Magazines; and though none of these lasted for any length of time, yet the seed was sown, the direction of advance indicated, and Robert Owen's right to the title of the "Father of Co-operation" established.

Opposite the house in Newtown wherein he was born stands a public library, and a tablet indicates that the Co-operative Union, acting on behalf of the Co-operative Societies of the country, was by far the largest donor to the building fund. A portion of the building is dedicated to his memory. In 1902 co-operators erected round his grave handsome iron railings. Attached to the front of the railings is a bronze bas-relief, showing Robert Owen with the veiled figure of Justice behind him, holding out his hand to a long procession of workers. On another side of the railings there is engraved the following sentence from Owen's own teaching:—

"It is the one great and universal interest of the human race to be cordially united, and to aid each other to the full extent of their capacities."

#### CO-OPERATION BEFORE 1862.

The principle of co-operation has been in practice amongst the people from the very commencement of human society, in so far that a number of persons have united to attain an end which each could not attain singly. In explaining his community idea, Robert Owen had pointed out that one large oven might suffice to bake for a number of families with little more cost and trouble of attendance than one household baking for itself would involve. Co-operative laundries were unknown (in practice) in his days, but they existed in



theory, for he suggested that one commodious washhouse and laundry would save one hundred disagreeable, screaming, steaming, toiling washing days in the homes of the people. And so it is that one large shop fitted up with modern improvements could supersede twenty smaller shops, and effect an enormous saving in working expenses and in costs of administration, besides being more pleasing to the eye. It is said that the first co-operative shop known in England was that of a tailoring society in Birmingham, opened in 1777, and the second a store at Mongewell, Oxfordshire, opened in 1794. The earliest one, however, that we have any definite record of is the Hull Anti-Corn Mill, which was established in 1795. This was not so much an attempt to carry out any definite theory of association as a vague groping after some means of escaping from the misery caused by the high prices of food prevailing at that period. We are told that the harvest of 1795 was a short one, and the average price of wheat in that year was 72s. 11d. per quarter. Indeed, at one period of the year it rose to £6. 6s. Compare that with the average price of wheat to-day.

The example of Hull was followed by Devonport in 1815, and a bread-baking society was commenced at Sheerness in 1816, and this is still in existence.

It was in 1821 that the seed of association which Robert Owen had sown into the minds of men first bore fruit among the working classes by the formation of the London Co-operative and Economical Society, their idea being to form a communal centre in the heart of London. Little information is available as to the success of these experiments, but it is certain that the ideal in a modified form became popular among workmen, and several hundreds of distributive and productive societies sprang into existence during the following ten years. These societies went by the name of "Brighton or union shops." They started as small societies, trading in the chief necessities of life, and they hoped to accumulate a sufficient amount of capital in this way to enter at a later stage upon the larger idea of community. Profits



were divided as interest on capital. One of the fundamental rules for the guidance of these societies was "That it be universally understood that the grand ultimate object of all co-operative societies, whether engaged in trading, manufacturing, or agricultural pursuits, is community on land." Such was the ideal of the Brighton or union shops. None of these societies, however, seem to have reached the community stage, and most of them went out of existence a few years later. Both their growth and decline had been rapid. Various reasons are assigned for their failure, among them lack of education among the workers, legal protection for the funds of societies, and the necessity of carrying on their trade through irresponsible agents. Among a list of such reasons presented to the Congress of 1832 appears the following: "Another cause has been the members not dealing with their own stores. It was not to be expected that the trading societies should answer their ends if the shop were deserted by its own proprietors." It appears disloyal members are not a new species which have only recently been introduced into the movement. The fact stands clear that disloyalty to their society was one of the reasons why some of the early societies failed. Be guided by the lessons and experience of the past. Then, when seen in their true perspective, these apparent failures will be the stepping-stones by which the co-operative movement will rise to higher, nobler, and better things. In a list of towns where Brighton or union shops were formed appear the following: Broadbottom, 1831; Mottram and Mossley, 1830 to 1833; Oldham, 1832; Ashton, 1838; Stockport, 1839; Hyde, 1830 to 1833.

The present era of co-operative enterprise was ushered in by the Rochdale Pioneers in 1844. The earlier societies, as we have seen, divided profits according to capital; the Pioneers struck a new note, and *their* plan was to pay a fixed rate of interest on capital, and divide the profits among the members according to their purchases, in the form of dividend. They also decided to devote a certain amount from the profits towards the

education of their members. The plan of association adopted by them, by reason of its equity, its adaptability to co-operative transactions, and its almost immediate success, has become the distinguishing feature in the development of distributive co-operation since 1844. The start of the Pioneers' Society is indeed interesting. It occurred during a strike in the flannel industry at Rochdale, when the weavers were out of work, and almost without food. They met together to discuss their condition and to make an effort to better themselves. They would become merchants and manufacturers on their own account. To commence, they had a membership of 28 and a capital of £28, which had been subscribed in small weekly sums. The ground floor of a warehouse in Toad Lane, Rochdale, became the first shop, which was opened with much timidity on December 21st, 1844. Its stock with which to commence business was valued at £14, and included flour, butter, sugar, and oatmeal. It was said that the shop would not be open a week, but it proved otherwise, and from its small beginning it has grown and flourished until in 1911 its members numbered 18,924, with a share capital of £368,122. It employed 410 people, paid £26,402 in wages, and the sales for the year amounted to £391,842.

PRESENT OFFICIALS.



Mr. A. H. BOOTH,  
*Manager.*



Mr. ROBERT ROSE,  
*Secretary.*



Mr. ABRAHAM ASHTON,  
*Treasurer.*





## CHAPTER II.

---

Not ours, perchance, the destiny to see,  
The unveiled glories of her inner bower,  
But myriads following in our steps shall be  
Equal partakers of the coming hour.

—J. C. Prince.

*First Co-operative Company in Hyde—The Brighton or Union Shop  
at Flowery Field.*

ANYONE with a knowledge of our town's history will know that Hyde has taken a prominent part in, and at times has been, the local hot-bed of those movements in the early part of the nineteenth century which have made for the political and material advancement of the people. It is not surprising, therefore, to know that Hyde was represented in the early attempts by the people of this country to put the co-operative ideas of Robert Owen into practice. The ideas and motives which prompted these enthusiastic experimenters have been dealt with in a previous chapter, and there is no reason to doubt that the concern started in Newton Street, Flowery Field, was a Brighton or union shop. The actual date of its commencement is somewhat uncertain, but it was about the year 1832. Little is known of the Flowery Field Co-operative Company's doings, and the only definite facts of its history which we have been able to find are two documents, viz., one a declaration to pay £10 to William Harrison, and the other the winding up of the company and the transfer of the business to their agent at that time, a Mr. Joseph Hall.

### COPY OF DOCUMENT PROMISING TO PAY £10.

We, the undersigned, conjointly with the remaining members of the Flowery Field Co-operative Society, do promise to pay on demand to William Harrison the sum of Ten Pounds, with lawful interest for the same.

As witness our hands this eleventh day of January. one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four.

H. N. DOOLEY, his mark X.

ABR. ECROYDE, his mark X.

1835. December 22nd.

Received by me, WILLIAM HARRISON.

COPY OF DOCUMENT TRANSFERRING THE BUSINESS TO  
JOSEPH HALL.

This is to certify that we, the members of the Flowery Field Co-operative Co., known as the Co-operative Stores, Hyde, do jointly and severally agree that the aforesaid Stores shall in future belong, together with the stock and fixtures contained therein, to Joseph Hall, our present agent, by our mutual consent in a general meeting assembled on February 22nd, one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine, and that our interest, so far as regards the profits arising out of the aforesaid concern, shall cease from the aforementioned date, providing that he willingly agrees to pay to the said members the sum of £86. 16s. 11d., the balance of stock over and above the amount of liabilities in the space of two years, with interest thereon at the rate of 5 per cent per annum.

(Signed)

SAMUEL BROADBENT.

THOMAS BEARD, his mark X.

JOSEPH BARLOW.

GEORGE HALL.

PETER HOWLEY.

GEORGE SLATER.

HENRY RAYNOR.

JOSEPH RAYNOR.

SAMUEL MASSEY.

JOSEPH ARUNDALE.

JOHN MOTTRAM.

SAMUEL CROMPTON.

JOHN HALL, Sen.

GEORGE SAVILLE.

Mr. Hall kept the shop as a grocery and provision store for a good many years, and on one occasion during the bread riots of March, 1863, it was ransacked of almost the whole of its contents. The peculiar feature of this concern is that it kept on for so long after the bulk of its kind had sunk into oblivion, and over four years after the commencement of the Rochdale Pioneers in 1844.

The originals of the above documents are in the hands of Mr. James Hall.



## CHAPTER III.

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Courage, fair Hyde, nobly hast thou done  
In this one thing, but not in this alone;  
For though thy sons were rough in mien and speech,  
Had much to learn, and something, perhaps, to teach;  
They were not destitute of those desires  
Which a true sense of liberty inspires,  
But in the march of progress strove to find  
A forward place: true men of honest mind.

F. C. Prince (*adapted*).

*The Inception of the Hyde Equitable Co-operative Society Limited—  
Its Early Influences and Difficulties—Men who were True to  
the Call—First Balance Sheet—First Tea Party—More New  
Members—Commission Business—Investing in Loans—First  
Cheap Trip—Revision of Rules—Hours of Opening and Closing  
Shops.*

ON looking back fifty years and inquiring into the general conditions and influences which beset the pioneers of the Hyde Equitable Co-operative Society one is faced with this outstanding fact: That the Society, like the Rochdale Pioneers, owes its inception and had its birth in bad times. True it is that when working men and women are forced to the wall through economic circumstances, when hundreds are out of work, and go through the streets ill-clad and hungry, the light of reason within them seems to shine the brightest and to point a way of helping themselves to a higher material and moral standard of life through their mutual co-operation.

The year 1862 was a memorable year in many respects—co-operative and otherwise. It saw the passing of an important Industrial and Provident Societies Act, which, among other things, gave to Co-operative Societies power to invest capital in other Societies, and thus made possible the great Co-operative Wholesale Society in 1864. It was the year when the great cotton panic, which commenced in 1861, was at its height. The cotton panic was due almost entirely to the American Civil War,

which broke out suddenly in 1861 between the northern and southern states on the question of slavery. It may be of interest to our younger readers to know that the result of this war was the abolition of slavery in America. There are many living to-day who remember the time—those “good, old days,” which some people in their ignorance long for again.

It is estimated that in 1862 350,000 persons were in receipt of poor relief or charitable support. In Hyde, as in all cotton manufacturing districts, this suffering and hardship was keenly felt. In January, 1862, a meeting was held in the Hyde Courtroom for the purpose of devising means to assist the suffering poor of the town. At this meeting it was resolved “to endeavour to raise £500,” and the report says “that an influential committee was appointed.” This committee formed a relief fund, and from time to time received grants from the Lord Mayor of London’s National Fund. The *Ashton Reporter* of August, 1862, stated:—

The distress continues to increase very rapidly. Several large mills which have been running short time are expected to close. The people are gradually but surely becoming a mass of recipients of charity.

Another report in the same paper commented as follows:—

We went by a village near Hyde yesterday, once prosperous; now two-thirds of the houses are to let, and, strange as it may appear, there was a notice against a house (with garden attached) to the effect that anyone might have it to live in rent free.

Another report says that on September 13th, 1862, 1,061 persons applied to the Hyde Relief Fund for relief, of whom 997, representing 2,620 individuals, were relieved at a cost of £153. The population of Hyde at this time was about 13,800.

A good idea of the distress prevailing in Hyde and district at this period may be gleaned from the following: “In Dukinfield, Hyde, Newton, Staley, Matley, Mottram, Hollingworth, Tintwistle, Godley, and Werneth there were 51,622 of a population and eighty-nine mills. From these it was estimated that 3,782 persons were



CENTRAL PREMISES—GROCERY, BOOTS, AND BUTCHERING.





working full time, 1,923 four to five days a week, 6,306 three days a week, 5,736 two days or under, and 8,698 out of work." These were the conditions prevailing in the town when Hyde Society commenced business.

Co-operation as we know it to-day came to Hyde from Dukinfield, which society commenced in 1857, five years previous to Hyde. It might also be noted here that Dukinfield is the parent society of Droylsden as well as that of Hyde. The parent society (Dukinfield) has gone out of existence, whilst its two offsprings have flourished.

The people of Hyde did not wait until co-operation was brought to them—"they fetched it." Many stories are told of persons tramping in all sorts of weather from Hyde and Newton along Birch Lane (which was then a rather lonely road) to Dukinfield for the weekly necessities of life, and a few of these early pioneers are still living who remember it. So great was the trade of the members from Hyde that Dukinfield Society opened a branch in our midst in 1861. This was the shop now occupied by Mr. George Hopwood, draper, in Market Street. The establishment of this branch in their midst must have appealed to the Hyde people, for a letter in the *Co-operator* of 1861, signed by a worker in the mill, says:

The takings at the Hyde shop for the third quarter being £2,640, such progress made in Hyde has enabled the Dukinfield Committee to purchase three shops in the central part of the town.

The three shops referred to are the present Central Premises in Newton Street. It is easy to see and understand how Hyde broke away from the Dukinfield Society. Members joined the branch in Hyde to such an extent that in a very short time the branch would have been doing more trade than the central shop in Dukinfield, the reason for this being that Hyde had a greater population. The Hyde members' thoughts naturally turned towards having a Society of their own, and as a result of many private meetings the members in Hyde took over the branch from Dukinfield in March, 1862. It should be pointed out that although Dukinfield had purchased the three shops, they only occupied one, having transferred

the business from Market Street, the other two being occupied by a Mr. George Holehouse and a Mr. J. Chadwick, furniture dealer. These tenants were in possession when Hyde took them over, and remained so until the one shop was not large enough for the increasing trade of the Society. The first meeting was held in the overlookers' room, Newton Street, and was over the top of Holehouse's shop. Although a report of this meeting is not to be found, we feel assured that enthusiasm and excitement must have been high, and that the Society had a glorious send-off.

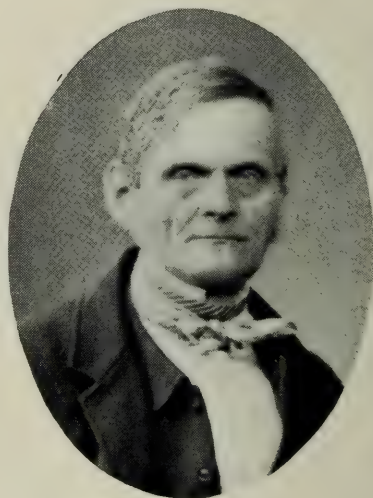
On May 17th, 1862, the premises were bought from the Dukinfield Society at a cost of £1,100; the actual amount paid was £400, as the premises were subject to a mortgage of £700.

The names of the first trustees which appear on the deeds are William Howe (overlooker), Hyde; John Hibbert (overlooker), Denton; and John Axon (warehouseman), Haughton Green.

It is evident that the breaking away of both Droylsden and Hyde in the space of a few months must have been a setback to the Dukinfield Society, as a report of its quarterly meeting which appears in the *Ashton Reporter* of that time shows:—

For some time the Society has been labouring under difficulties caused partly by the Hyde and Droylsden Branches withdrawing and forming independent Societies, leaving the parent Society (Dukinfield) with a heavy stock of goods that will take some time to convert into cash, partly owing to the depressed state of trade.

Many Hyde members withdrawing from Dukinfield had to receive their share capital in goods; a quantity of



MR. JAMES POLLITT.

goods being also transferred to the Hyde Society direct. Many amusing stories are related of those who received their shares in commodities. William Howe received amongst other things a half-load of flour, and he along with a few friends carried it on their backs from Dukinfield to his home. James Pollitt received his share in the form of a few yards of cloth. Visions of a new suit flitted across old James' mind, but these were rudely scattered when he presented himself and his cloth to a tailor, who, after a careful examination, told him it was *not worth making up*.

Coming through all its initial difficulties, the Society was at last started. It was registered in March, 1862, as the Hyde Equitable Co-operative Society Limited. It is said that William Howe suggested the word Equitable.

Prominent amongst those who laboured with zeal and enthusiasm at the commencement might be mentioned the following: William Howe, who was the first president, or chairman as it was then designated; Willis Knowles, first treasurer; John Smith, first secretary; James Shaw and Joshua France, first auditors. Prominent amongst the committee-men, &c., were the following: John Axon, Richard Furness, Philip Lloyd, John F. Parker, Ralph B. Cash, John Hibbert, Sydney France, James Pollitt, and William Ashton. The first shopman was Joseph Kenyon. Amongst others at an early period were Joseph Booth, who came from Rochdale; James Ashton, who is still a member of the Society; Joseph Howe (son of William Howe); John Sidebottom, the present collector of taxes at Hyde; and Charles Barker.

The first quarter's working of the Society ended on June 24th, 1862, and the first balance sheet, indicating that from the commencement success was assured, is set out on the following pages:—



*Copy of the First Quarterly Report of the*

## FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT

## CASH

INCOME.		£	s.	d.
To Cash from Store .....		1344	8	4
„ Contributions.....		19	1	8
„ Loans .....		90	0	0
„ Propositions.....		0	9	0
„ Rents .....		10	14	4
„ Sundry Receipts .....		0	3	3

---

£1464 16 7

---

## GENERAL

LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.
To Members' Claims and Interest .....		1161	8	2
„ Loans and Interest .....		90	15	10
„ Mortgage Loan and Interest .....		708	15	0
„ Unpaid Bills.....		19	8	3
„ Balance Profit .....		48	18	3

---

£2029 15 6

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## DISPOSAL OF PROFITS

		£	s.	d.
To £800 of Checks given in at 1s. in the £ .....		40	0	0
„ Depreciation of Fixed Stock .....		8	18	3
		48	18	3

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Hyde Equitable Co-operative Society Limited.

ENDING JUNE 24TH, 1862.

ACCOUNT

EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
By Cash Paid for Goods .....		1187	19	0½
„ „ „ Wages .....		20	5	9
„ „ „ Carriage.....		26	11	10½
„ „ „ Withdrawals.....		27	15	1
„ „ „ General Expenses .....		42	4	4½
„ „ „ Rates .....		0	7	6
„ „ Paid to Rochdale Corn Mill.....		1	5	0
„ „ Fixed Stock Additions .....		7	9	1
„ „ Manchester and Liverpool District Bank....		120	0	0
„ „ in Treasurer's hands.....		30	18	10½

---

£1464 16 7

---

STATEMENT.

ASSETS.		£	s.	d.
By Goods in Stock .....		363	16	9½
„ Property and Fixed Stock .....		1123	1	5
„ Cash in Dukinfield Society .....		392	1	5
„ „ Bank .....		120	0	0
„ „ hand .....		30	18	10½

---

£2029 15 6

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Auditors—

JAMES SHAW.

JOSHUA FRANCE.

Secretary—

JOHN SMITH.

The Society's first investment in co-operative productive concerns was £20 in the Rochdale Corn Mill, and appears on the second balance sheet of the Society.

The question of having good, strong reserve funds has always been an outstanding feature of the Society, and at the present time it is of interest to note what the third quarterly report of the Society said to its members: "In laying before you our third quarterly report we have great pleasure in congratulating members on doing so well under the circumstances. In dealing with profits arising from business our first consideration should be security. We should all willingly forego *large dividends*, until ample security has been made for the repayment of the whole of the capital, whenever it may be desired. With this in view, you will see that we have again depreciated the property and fixed stock ten per cent."

The Quarterly Meetings of the Society for the first three years were held in the room over Holehouse's shop, in Newton Street.

The Fifth Quarterly Meeting, held on July 7th, 1863, was well attended. Votes of thanks were given to committee and storemen. The report of the meeting says, "the members separated well pleased with themselves." It would be interesting to see whether the members would separate to-day in that spirit if a dividend of 10d. in the pound was declared, as was the case then.

At the Seventh Quarterly Meeting, held on January 5th, 1864 (John F. Parker, chairman), it was stated that the number of members was 262. This is the first definite number of the Society's membership obtainable.

From the Quarterly Meeting of April 9th, 1864, it appears that during the cotton panic £800 had been withdrawn by the members.

It is evident that the membership was increasing, for the Thirteenth Quarterly Meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, George Street. At this meeting the members granted £5 to the Dukinfield Society, who had lost about £50 worth of goods during the bread riots.

EX-PRESIDENTS.



PHILIP LLOYD.



WILLIAM HOWE.



JOHN FIRTH  
PARKER.



NOAH BENT.



RALPH BERRY CASH.



SYDNEY FRANCE.



RICHARD FURNESS.





The first tea party in connection with the Society was held in the Mechanics' Hall, on March 24th, 1866. Thomas Ashton, Esq., presided, and with him on the platform were Mr. John Alcock, Mr. John Thornely, and other prominent townsmen. Co-operation was moving in select company.

In 1866 the Society had a large increase of members. It was stated at the Quarterly Meeting in October, that 260 new members had been enrolled during the twelve months. The Dividend at this time varied from 1s. 11d. to 2s. in the pound.

In January, 1867, the first grants to the Manchester Infirmary and Eye Hospital of £3. 3s. each were made. Grants have been given annually ever since.

At the Twentieth Quarterly Meeting of April 2nd, 1867, it was reported that 159 new members had joined since Christmas, and in order to accommodate the large increase of members it was stated that the premises were undergoing extensive alterations. At this meeting the members passed the following resolution unanimously: "That no member shall be eligible to serve on the committee who has less than £5 in the funds of the Society."

The success of the Society at this time, very naturally, irritated the private shopkeeper, quite a host of letters appearing in the local papers for and against co-operation. It is needless to say co-operators held their ground.

In 1867 the shopmen were allowed four days each for annual holidays.

An interesting and amusing minute passed by the Committee on October 21st, 1867, reads thus: "That we buy *not* pigs this season." Seeing that this was the only business recorded at the meeting, one would naturally expect it to be well done. Towards the close of 1867 the Society made arrangements with certain traders in the town to supply members with goods, such as clothes, drapery, boots and shoes, &c. Amongst such Commission Agents appointed were the following:—Beriah

Cooper, draper; Dennis Barlow and John Woodcock, cloggers; Thomas Worsley, bootmaker; Benjamin Potts, shoemaker, clogger, and draper; Joseph Warhurst, clogger; and Thomas W. Brogden, tailor. In 1868 £1,000 was invested in loan with the Newton Moor Spinning Company Limited, Dukinfield. On Whit Saturday, 1868, the Society's first cheap trip was run to Matlock Bath, 500 handbills announcing the same being distributed. On October 19th, 1868, the Committee decided to commence the pork and bacon business, salters, weighers, and pig inspectors being appointed from the Committee; the fees were—for salting 2s. 6d., and for pig inspecting 6d. per pig. The delivery of goods was not a great task in those days, for the amount paid for the delivery of goods in the quarter to Newton was only 10s., and for Hyde district, 2s.

In May, 1868, Mr. Joseph Swincells, a member of the Hyde Society, was elected on the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Committee. He retired in November, 1869.

In 1868 John F. Parker (chairman) said: "The Society was sound to the core." Indeed, they were constantly singing its praises. The Secretary (John Smith) at the Quarterly Meeting of July 4th, 1868, remarked: "The dividend declared was an honest, real, and bona-fide one." The Committee decided on July 14th, 1869, to lend to the Dukinfield Society £400, as a mortgage on property of that Society, bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. This loan was repaid in March, 1873.

At the Annual Tea Party held on Saturday, March 26th, 1870, there were 600 persons present. Mr. Daniel Adamson, of Ship Canal fame, presided. He congratulated the members on the then present condition of the Society.

His keen business eye also found that the cost of management had been reduced from 1s. 4d. to 6d. in the pound.

On November 7th, 1870, John Chadwick removed from the shop he had rented from the Society, and it was

# EX-PRESIDENTS.



1—ADAM VICKERS. 2—WILLIAM WHYATT. 3—HENRY EDWARDS. 4—THOMAS HADFIELD.  
5—ALPHONSO WHITEHEAD. 6—WILLIAM CLIFFORD. 7—JOHN SWINDELLS. 8—JOHN CATLOW  
9—JAMES POLLARD.





decided to fit up one of the rooms as a Committee room. The question of what business should be introduced in the vacant shop was left for the Quarterly Meeting to decide.

On January 3rd, 1871, the Quarterly Meeting elected the first revision of rules committee, which was composed of the following:—Willis Knowles, Andrew Nickels, James Grime, John Smith, and John Hibbert.

It is interesting in these days of early closing to note the hours of opening and closing in former times. On May 26th, 1871, the Committee decided that the following should be the hours for opening and closing the shops:—Monday, 7-30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Tuesday, 7-30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Wednesday, 7-30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday, 7-30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 7-30 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.; Saturday, 7-30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## CHAPTER IV.

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Success is like skating; you learn to acquire it just by getting up every time you fall down.—*David Graham Phillips.*

*The Society becomes a "Corporate Body"—Reserve Fund and Depreciation—Boot and Shoe Business Commenced—The Society Loses £1,100—Trying Times—Laxity of Officials in Keeping the Accounts—The Storm Weathered, and the Society again forges ahead—Drapery Business Commenced—First Truck of Coal Arrives—First Branch Opened at Newton—Bad Times again encountered—The Society again Joins the Co-operative Wholesale Society—Tailoring Business Commenced—Branch Opened at Gee Cross.*

**A**N amendment of the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, passed in 1871, came into force in 1872. This Act gave to Societies the right to hold in their corporate capacity land and buildings to carry on various classes of business and to sue or be sued. The passing of this Act had the effect of placing Co-operative and kindred Societies on a firmer basis than had been possible before. It took from the trustees a great liability and risk. At the thirty-ninth Quarterly Meeting held on January 2nd, 1872, the following resolution was passed: "That a separate item of the expenses of the Committee be placed on the balance sheet." This the Committee had drawn up as below and entered in the minute book:—

Wages—	£	s.	d.
Shopmen and Secretary.....	163	18	0
Treasurer .....	2	10	0
Auditors .....	2	10	0
Labour .....	3	19	9
Committee—Wages .....	£5	0	0
"    Chairman.....	0	2	6
Shop Inspecting .....	0	10	0
Pig Inspecting at 6d. per Pig .....	1	2	0
Stocktaking .....	1	1	0
Delegates to Rochdale .....	0	14	6
Salting .....	0	10	0
		9	0
		0	0
	£181	17	9

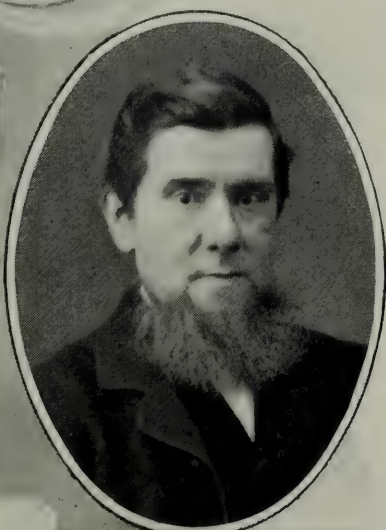
PAST OFFICIALS.



Mr. W. H. STOTT,  
*Manager.*



Mr. JOHN SCHOFIELD.



Mr. A. NICKELS,  
*Treasurer.*





However, it appears in the next balance sheet in one lump sum. We assume that the Committee had objections to such items appearing on the printed balance sheet as shop inspecting, pig inspecting, delegates to Rochdale, and salting. At the next Quarterly Meeting the members evidently came to the same conclusion, for they passed a resolution as follows:—

That the Committee wages be stated in one lump sum on the balance sheet; stocktaking, auditing, Treasurer's salary, and deputations be stated separately, and salting and pig inspecting in one lump sum.

It will be noticed that the Committee had wages and the Treasurer a salary. In later years these became fees. The property in Newton Street was conveyed to the Society on April 2nd, 1872. A resolution was passed at the fortieth Quarterly Meeting as follows:—

Moved by James Grime, seconded by Willis Knowles—That the common seal of this Society be affixed to the deeds now produced, dated this day, of the property in Newton Street, from Messrs. Axon, Hibbert, and Howe, to the Society, as a corporate body, Messrs. Axon, Hibbert, and Howe being the original trustees of the Society.

JOHN FIRTH PARKER, Chairman.

The above was evidently of great importance to the members, as it was the first item on the agenda of business.

In June, 1872, the shares which the Society held in the Co-operative Wholesale Society were withdrawn, the reason given at the time being that the Committee did not approve of having capital locked up. At the Quarterly Meeting held on October 1st the members decided to send a letter of condolence to the widow of the late John F. Parker, who had died during the quarter. He had been a member of the Society from its commencement, a member of the Committee from 1862, and Chairman for two years. He was taken ill on the Society's premises whilst waiting his turn to be served. He was one of the pioneers, and his demise caused a blank not easily filled at the time. The subscription to the Manchester Royal Infirmary was increased to £6. 6s. at this meeting. A noteworthy event occurred at the end of December, 1872. The whole of the buildings and fixed stock had

all been wiped out by depreciation and balances of profit from previous quarters, so that what had cost the Society £1,854 was valued in the balance sheet *nil*. Truly they were setting future rulers a serious task to keep up to such a standard. The following important resolution was passed in December, 1872: "That our buyer buy no more goods without a guarantee as to genuineness." It is interesting to notice that the Society has always laid great stress and emphasis on this question, and the above resolution shows that in the past as well as the present purity and good quality are and were the predominant features in the buying and selling transactions of the Society.

Up to this period dividend was not paid on sugar and various other articles, but at the Quarterly Meeting of October 7th, 1873, the members decided to pay dividend on all goods sold. At this time sugar was 6d. per lb.

In February, 1874, the boot and shoe business was commenced in a part of the present central premises. The first quarter's working amounted to the sum of £28. 1s. 1d. This the Committee considered very unsatisfactory, and had thoughts of closing this business, but wisely decided to try a little longer, for the June quarter showed a sale of £225. This venture had rather a chequered career until the year 1878, when the sales began to increase rapidly, the June quarter of that year showing a sale of £406. In September the Committee decided that the pork and bacon business should be kept separate from other departments. In previous years this had been part of the grocery business. The practice of sending children to the Stores was as prevalent in those early days as it is to-day, and, owing to the many mistakes occurring and the complaints from members of children receiving wrong change, the Committee had the following printed notice put up in the shops in December, 1874:—

Customers are earnestly requested to examine their checks and change before leaving the counters, as no mistakes can be rectified after. It is also advisable not to send children to the Stores, if it



NEWTON BRANCH - GROCERY AND BUTCHERING, LIBRARY,  
READING, AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS.





can be avoided, but should parents be compelled to send them, it would be better to give them as near the amount of money required as possible, so many mistakes occurring by sending children.

On April 13th, 1875, the following minute is recorded: "That Alfred H. Booth be engaged as check-boy." This refers to our present General Manager.

At the end of the year 1875 the Society recorded a very serious loss. The balance sheet of December 20th showed a loss of £1,146. 12s. 11d., caused by the laxity of officials. We can imagine what a stir this would create amongst the members, and, as is usually the case, the Committee were denounced by all and sundry. Private meetings of members were held at which resolutions were passed to reject certain members of the Committee at the next Quarterly Meeting. At this meeting, which was held in the old Hyde Theatre on January 6th, 1876, a large attendance of members was present. Mr. Howe presided, and explained to the meeting the position in which the Society stood. He said that the "accounts had been gone through, and the Board had come to the decision to recommend the payment of a dividend of 6d. in the £." This they were able to do by writing up the fixed stock and property, which up to then had cost the Society £2,115. This had been written down by depreciation and balance of profit from previous quarters to £48. To this was added £1,072, making a total of £1,120. From this they had deducted the whole of the reserve fund, forfeits, proposition, and depreciation for the quarter, leaving £871. 12s. 9d., which amount is shown in the statement giving the present position of the Society. After this explanation the members refused to accept a dividend of 6d. We are told that the meeting was a very rowdy one, and at one period pandemonium reigned supreme. However, wiser counsels prevailed, the members eventually accepting the dividend as the only way out of a very serious difficulty. The only change on the Committee at this meeting was the election of Mr. Alphonso Whitehead in the place of Mr. James Grime, who resigned. Thus ended one of the most memorable meetings ever

held in the Society's history. Later on in the year the whole of the Committee were replaced by new men.

It is interesting to know the way the business of the Society was conducted at the time; it was certainly very different from our days. Banking amongst working men was very little understood. From a perusal of early balance sheets we find that the Society opened an account with the Manchester and Liverpool District Bank in the first quarter, at the end of which the balance of £120 is shown, in the second quarter £26, and in the third this had dwindled down to £10. Nothing further appears in the Bank until December, 1863, after which it appears each quarter. Merchants were not paid by cheques, as they are to-day, but in cash, the treasurer drawing cash to pay bills as required, handing same over to the manager, and getting a receipt from him. To what extent the holding of cash at the Office had gone is quite evident from a perusal of the September balance sheet, the Bank balance being £4. 6s., and cash in hand £1,337. This speaks for itself.

At a Special General Meeting of members held on March 22nd, 1876, Messrs. Broom, Murray, and Co., of Manchester, were appointed Auditors to the Society for the quarter, it being found desirable after the recent disclosures to have public Auditors to examine the accounts. To Messrs. Broom, Murray, and Co. must be given the credit of putting the Society's accounts on a sound basis, which is in use to-day.

During the Quarter which ended on March 22nd, 1876, members' share capital had gone down from £7,270 to £5,458, whilst only £10 had been received. This shows the widespread fear of the members as to the stability of the Society. Anyhow, the Society was able to weather the storm, and to declare a dividend of 2s. 3d. in the pound for the March Quarter, and so to a certain extent restore confidence. In the following quarter £1,551 was paid out, leaving the share capital £4,903. It was not until the September Quarter that any additions were shown in the share capital.



GEE CROSS GROCERY STORE AND COTTAGE.





On February 24th, 1876, Mr. Willis Knowles severed his official connection with the Society. Mr. Knowles was one of the most prominent men connected with the Society at its commencement. He was one of the noble pioneers. Letters from his pen appear in almost all the co-operative and local papers of the period defending co-operative principles in general and the Hyde Society in particular. Mr. G. J. Holyoake, in his *History of Co-operation*, alludes to him as follows:—

Mr. Willis Knowles, an experienced co-operator, says that the Store at Hyde finds it most profitable to extinguish the fixed stock charge as early as possible, making the fund set aside for depreciation large for this purpose; for whatever value is put upon unredeemed and fixed stock has to receive interest, which is equivalent to a rent charge. This being cleared off allows a larger dividend to be paid to members.

At the Quarterly Meeting held April 4th, 1876, Messrs. Broom, Murray, and Co. were re-elected Auditors for the following year. Mr. Michael Nadin, of Guide Bridge, was appointed Secretary; later on he was made Superintendent and Secretary. The administration of the Society was amended by altering the rules, as follows:

The President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Auditors to be elected annually in April, and one Committee-man every quarter, who shall not be eligible for re-election until he has been out of office for two years.

It may be of interest to many to know that a collection was made amongst the Society's employees for the Bulgarian Relief Fund in September, 1876.

February 15th, 1877, was a memorable day, the Trustees' names on the signs being painted over, and the name "Hyde Equitable Co-operative Society Limited" substituted. With what a glow of satisfaction would members look up and say, we are part proprietors.

Up to this period the Society's carrying had been done by various persons, and negotiations were opened for the work to be done by one man. These led to the engagement of Edmund Parry to do the whole of the Society's carrying; later on he was appointed as a carter in the Society's employ.

In 1877 capital was received up to £100 with the further privilege of allowing dividend and interest to remain until the amount reached £200, this being the limit allowed by law for any one individual.

The following sympathetic resolution was passed and recorded in the minutes of April 9th, 1877: "That book No. 1,071 be transferred from Sarah ——— to Eliza ———, her sister." This book and money belonged to the latter person, but was put in her sister's name during the time her husband was living, who was very unsteady.

The boot and shoe trade was increasing very rapidly at this time, the Committee deciding that after May 5th commission business be discontinued.

All purchases of goods at this period were made by the Committee at their meetings from samples shown by travellers.

The Drapery Department was commenced in the June quarter, 1877, in the shop now used as Boot and Shoe Department. Miss Ball was appointed manageress. The quarter's sales amounted to £202. On October 5th the first Drapery Club was commenced.

June, 1877, is noteworthy, being the end of the sixty-first quarter, and the realising of a three shillings dividend for the first time.

The Quarterly Meeting of March 25th, 1878, elected Mr. Thomas Hadfield as president, and declared a dividend of 3s. 3d. The Society also lent on loan £3,000 to a private firm of millers, from whom they purchased flour. At this time the movement could not absorb all the Society's surplus capital. On February 7th, 1878, the Committee took on a seven years' lease a house, shop, and cottage next to the Central Premises (now occupied by a photographer). To this shop was transferred the boot and shoe business, and in April clog-making was added. The first practical boot and shoe manager was Mr. John Bills, who was appointed in April, 1878. He remained with the Society until September, 1888. He was followed



CENTRAL DRAPERY AND TAILORING.





by Mr. Walter Aspland, who was appointed on October 4th, 1888. It was found necessary in May to find warehouse accommodation owing to increasing trade. The shop had to be used to a great extent as a warehouse, and no doubt this interfered with the serving of customers. The Committee, therefore, decided to build a warehouse at the back of the shop. Mr. J. Hunt was appointed architect, and Mr. Aaron Haughton was entrusted with the work of erection. These buildings are still in existence, and are now used as storeroom for the Central Grocery and also workroom for boot repairing. Until the building of the warehouse in Railway Street the Central shop was used as a distributing centre for goods to branches.

The question of commencing the coal trade had been before the Committee for some considerable time, and on June 20th the Secretary was requested to get all information possible respecting the coal business. This was evidently satisfactory, and on July 8th the first truckload of coal arrived at Hyde Station, handbills being circulated amongst the members announcing same for sale at 7½d. per cwt.

A requisition from the members residing in Newton "requesting that a branch shop be opened in their district" came before the members at the Quarterly Meeting held on July 2nd. This requisition was unanimously agreed to. The Committee, after visiting several plots of land in Newton, fixed on the one now occupied by the Newton Branch. Mr. T. Lindley (Ashton) was appointed architect, and Messrs. J. Robinson and Sons (Hyde) erected the premises. The deed for this land is dated November 1st, 1878—from Charles James Ashton and John William Ashton to the Society. This was the first branch opened, and business was commenced in the September quarter, 1880, the first quarter's sales amounting to £2,571.

At the end of 1878 commenced one of the periodical seasons of bad trade, the takings gradually falling away from £17,140 in the December quarter to £12,580 in the

June quarter following. Owing to this serious loss in trade the Committee found it necessary to dismiss two servants and reduce the wages of three others 2s. per week.

On October 6th, 1879, the Manager and Secretary, Mr. Nadin, resigned, and Mr. Alphonso Whitehead, who was President at the time, was appointed Manager *pro tem*. The Committee decided to divide the positions, giving as a reason for the change that it was in the interest of the Society for the Manager to devote all his time to the shops. When the Committee decided to advertise, Mr. Whitehead resigned his position as President in order to apply for that of Manager. The Committee, however, on October 30th, appointed Mr. John Schofield Secretary and Mr. Bernard Charlesworth as Manager. Mr. Charlesworth remained with the Society as Manager for three years, when he resigned to take over the management of the Lancashire Supply Association in Albert Square, Manchester. After this resignation the Committee reverted to the old order of things, and appointed Mr. Schofield as Manager and Secretary. Mr. Schofield remained with the Society until his death in September, 1886; he was then 34 years of age. Mr. Schofield was buried at St. Mary's Church, Muslin Street, Newton. During his connection with the Society branches were opened as follows: Newton, 1880; Gee Cross, 1881; Central Drapery, 1882; Hyde Lane, 1884; and Central Butchering in 1885. He also took an active part in forming the Educational Department, and in the year of his death he had represented the Society at the Glasgow Co-operative Congress.

At a General Meeting of members held on October 5th, 1880, it was decided to join the Co-operative Wholesale Society. As previously mentioned, the Society had been connected with the Co-operative Wholesale Society (which was then known as the North of England Co-operative Society). The English Co-operative Wholesale Society commenced business on March 14th, 1864. The first report to October, 1864 (thirty weeks) shows a trade done of £51,857, and when Hyde joined in 1880 the trade



HYDE LANE GROCERY AND BUTCHERY.





had increased to £3,339,681. At the end of 1911 the turnover was nearly £28,000,000, and a bank turnover of £146,000,000. It employs in its distribution department, salerooms, shipping, steamship, and productive works 19,716 persons. It has a reserve fund of over £600,000, and an insurance fund of £848,609.

May, 1881, saw the beginning of the tailoring trade, the Manager being requested to get a few suits of men's and youths' clothing on approval. These suits were sold in the Drapery Department, and for some years it was a common practice to receive bespoke orders in this department, men from the various wholesale houses calling to submit samples of cloth and to take measurements. In June, 1881, the Society took up £2 in shares in the Co-operative Insurance Society Limited, and in 1884 this was increased to £22.

The Committee at this time were evidently alive to the increasing needs of the district, for in June, 1881, the following minute appears: "That we ascertain how many members we have in Gee Cross and district."

This was followed by the opening of the Gee Cross Branch in the December Quarter, in the present shop, which was rented. It was purchased and transferred to the Society on May 3rd, 1882. The first quarter's sales amounted to £461.

The Eightieth Quarterly Report, which ended in March, 1882, stated, "that the total receipts from all sources amount to the sum of £14,753, or an average per week of £1,135, being an increase of £3,600 compared with the corresponding period of last year. Number of members, 1,676; share capital, £15,291."

## CHAPTER V.

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Self-help is a glorious thing, and one of our numerous birth-rights.—*William de Morgan.*

*Purchase of Property in Market Street and Charles Street—A Member of the Society Elected a Co-operative Wholesale Society Director—Small Savings Bank Commenced—Another Revision of Rules—Purchase of Property in Hyde Lane and Queen Street—Opening of the Hyde Lane Grocery Branch—Bi-Quarterly Meetings Commenced—Opening of Central Butchering—Appleby and Wood appointed Auditors—Cottage Building Department Commenced—Butchering Branch at Gee Cross—Mr. R. Rose appointed Secretary—Mr. W. H. Stott appointed Manager—Banking Transferred to the Co-operative Wholesale Society—Shares taken in Manchester Ship Canal—Opening of Commercial Street and Mottram Road, Dukinfield, and Stockport Road Branches—Butchering Department included in General Dividend—Erection of Warehouse—Coal Business Re-organised—Hyde Colliery Explosion.*

AT the Quarterly Meeting of July 8th, 1882, the question of investing the Committee with power to purchase property, so situated as to be advantageous for the opening of a new Boot and Shoe Department, and for a reading room, was discussed, and the Committee were armed with the necessary powers. This led to the purchasing of the property in Market Street and Charles Street, now occupied as Central Drapery and Tailoring Departments. This freehold property was bought from Mr. Franklin Wrigley on September 1st, 1882.

On November 4th, 1882, the annual tea meeting was held in Union Street Schools, when 500 persons sat down to tea. Mr. J. Macnab, who occupied the chair at the evening meeting, urged the members to patronise the Drapery and Boot Departments. "He hoped they would soon see their way to erect mills, and work them at their own expense, so that they might have a share of the profits." That is an ideal to which the Society has not yet attained—but who knows what the next fifty years



NEWTON COTTAGES.





will see accomplished in that direction? If the Society is not engaged in "large scale production" on its own account, it certainly is interested in productive concerns by reason of its many shares in Co-operative and Joint Stock Companies.

In December, 1883, Mr. Macnab, who was a member of the Hyde Society, was elected a director of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. He retired from the position in March, 1886, owing to pressure of private business engagements.

In March, 1883, shares to the amount of £10 were taken in the Co-operative Printing Society Limited. These have since been increased to £150.

At a Quarterly Meeting in April, 1883, a donation of £10 was granted towards a testimonial to Thomas Hughes, Q.C. In his time Mr. Hughes was an earnest co-operator. He was a member of the "Christian Socialist" group of 1848, who were largely responsible for the passing of the Industrial and Provident Societies Act of 1852 and 1862. These Acts established Co-operative Societies on a better legal basis. He will perhaps be better known to the younger generation of co-operators as the author of "Tom Brown's School Days." He was Judge of the Hyde County Court for many years.

The Quarterly Meeting of April, 1883, empowered the Committee to open a small savings bank department. This was opened in the June quarter of the same year, and although only open for two weeks in that quarter the report showed that there were 53 depositors, and their deposits amounted to £6. 5s. 9d. The next quarter, September, showed that the Savings Bank was making rapid progress, and was much appreciated by members' children. The depositors had increased to 115, and deposits for the quarter to £22. 9s. 10d.

The following rule in relation to the Savings Bank was added to the Society's rules in 1883:—

There shall be a Small Savings Bank in connection with the Society for members and their families, any member of which may

deposit from one penny to five shillings in any one payment, but not to have more than £20 standing to their credit. The interest to be at the rate of £3. 6s. 8d. per cent per annum.

The maximum amount for any one payment was on November 5th, 1894, altered to 10s., this being the limit allowed by law. To such an extent has the Savings Bank grown that the balance standing to the credit of depositors in March, 1912, amounted to £3,086. F. I.

Another important alteration in the rules was that all surplus profits, instead of being carried forward to the next quarter's trade account, should be carried forward to the reserve fund. This was the commencement of the Society's present reserve fund. A new rule for the Educational Department was also inserted as follows:—

That the Educational Department shall be managed by a Special Committee of seven persons, to be eligible each year for re-election, and a sum of not less than one per cent of the net profit shall be granted to conduct the department.

At the Quarterly Meeting in January, 1884, the Committee reported having bought a plot of land with eight cottages in Hyde Lane and Queen Street. The deed for this property is dated December 11th, 1883, from Henry Dyson, leasehold for 999 years.

Building operations were commenced, and on October 30th of the same year the present Hyde Lane Grocery Branch was opened by the President, Mr. Thos. Hadfield. The architect was Mr. Fred Smith, of Eccles, an earnest co-operator, and one time Mayor of Eccles. J. Robinson and Sons were the builders. The first quarter's sales at the Hyde Lane Branch amounted to £998.

In the Quarterly Report of June 14th, 1884, the Committee stated:—

We have not started the work of erection of cottages at Newton, but hope to do so shortly. We propose to erect three good houses instead of four as previously arranged. On measuring up the land we found that if we put up four houses they would be unbecoming of the name of our Society, hence the alteration.

Four houses were, however, erected. The report also stated that they had attached to dividend tickets a card



MOTTRAM ROAD GROCERY AND BUTCHERY.





of admission to the Quarterly Meeting, so as to prevent other than members attending. Share capital during the quarter had increased by £694.

The Annual Meeting was held in the Mechanics' Hall, on December 6th, 1884, the President (Mr. Thos. Hadfield) in the chair. The report presented to the meeting stated that the average purchases per member for the year was 12s. 5½d. per week. After quoting the quantities of flour, &c., sold during the year, it said, "lastly you have blown into the air 2 tons, 17cwts., and 11lbs. of tobacco." They claimed to rank among the best managed societies in the movement.

The auditor in 1884 was Mr. David West.

In December, 1884, £10 in shares were taken in the Hebden Bridge Fustian Society Limited, and £5 in the Co-operative Newspaper Society. These shares have since been increased to £20 in each case.

As the trade of the Society increased the business at the quarterly meetings increased also, and it was found necessary to extend the business over two meetings. This brought into being the bi-quarterly meetings in 1884.

During 1885 the Drapery Department was removed from the shop in Newton Street, now occupied by the Boot and Shoe Department, to its present position in Market Street. The Boot and Shoe Department was also transferred from the shop on the right-hand side of the entry to its present position in Newton Street. The Drapery Department at this time was under the management of Miss Ray. At the April Quarterly Meeting, 1885, Messrs. Appleby and Wood were appointed Auditors to the Society, a position they have held without a break up to the present time. They have thus been Auditors to the Society for a period of twenty-seven years.

In the December quarter, 1885, the butchering business was commenced in the shop in Market Street now occupied by the Tailoring Department. Mr. James Brown was engaged as the first Manager. The first quarter's sales amounted to £136.

In 1886 the members' Cottage Building Department was commenced. This department has been of great assistance to members in providing them with the means of building or buying their own houses. Many members have by this method become possessors of their own homes. During the time it has been in existence advances have been made amounting to £25,804. Repayments have been made to the amount of £17,065. This leaves a balance owing at the present time of £8,739. The question of opening a Butchering Branch in Gee Cross had been occupying the attention of the Committee for some time, and on August 26th they took over the premises then occupied by the Working Men's Club. These were converted into a butcher's shop, and it was opened as such during the March quarter of 1887. The first quarter's takings were £77; second, £63; third, £51. It was only open twelve months, and at the end of that time it was deemed desirable to transfer it to the Grocery Department.

On September 23rd, 1886, Mr. Robert Rose was appointed to the position of Secretary. Prior to his appointment he had been acting *pro tem* in that position during the illness of Mr. Schofield. Mr. Rose commenced his career with the Society on December 8th, 1884. He was first engaged as check clerk to inaugurate the book system, the metallic check system which it superseded being considered out of date. On August 15th, 1885, he was promoted to the General Office. He has seen the Society develop to its present proud position, and to him must be given a fair meed of praise for the progress made. From his appointment as Secretary in 1886 to the present time the share capital has grown from £25,468 to £48,549, the sales from £42,118 to £85,092. Membership has increased from 1,947 to 3,156. Mr. Rose has been in the Society's service for a period of twenty-seven years.

On September 30th, 1886, Mr. W. H. Stott (Woodley) was engaged as General Manager. Mr. Stott had previously been with the Society as head shopman from 1877 to 1881, when he left to become the General Manager of the Hasland and Grassmoor Society, near Chesterfield.



GROCERY WAREHOUSE AND SLAUGHTER-HOUSE.





Butchering was commenced at Newton in the Grocery Department on November 18th, 1886. In January, 1889, the present Butchering Branch in Muslin Street, Newton (adjoining the Grocery Department), was opened. The first quarter's sales were £409.

In December, 1886, shares to the amount of £5 were taken in the Airedale Co-operative Worsted Society Limited.

On April 7th, 1887, the Society transferred its banking business to the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Bank at Manchester.

At the Quarterly Meeting on April 11th, 1887, Mr. Allen Shaw was elected President of the Society for the first time. At the same meeting the members decided to take up fifty ordinary £10 shares in the Manchester Ship Canal Company Limited, and on July 11th another fifty ordinary and fifty preference shares were taken. The shares, to the value of £1,500, were paid up in full by September of the same year.

It is evident that at this period the Committee were looking ahead, for a branch was opened on April 28th, 1887, in Commercial Street, Newton, on the opposite side of the road to and almost facing the present Commercial Street Branch. This shop was rented from Chester's Brewery Company. The first day's takings were £12, and the second £13, the average takings for the first two weeks being £65.

In March, 1887, shares to the value of £20 were taken in the Leicester Hosiery Society. This society was taken over by the Co-operative Wholesale Society in 1904.

On August 4th, 1887, a branch was opened on Mottram Road at the corner of Shepley Street. This shop was rented, and a thousand handbills were distributed in the district announcing its opening. The takings for the first three days were £41. 7s..

On May 14th, 1887, Mr. W. Wibberley was appointed Butchering Manager in place of Mr. J. Brown, who had resigned.

In December, 1887, shares to the value of £20 were taken in the Co-operative Sundries Society Limited; they have since been increased to £250.

The Quarterly Meeting of January 9th, 1888, empowered the Committee to purchase a horse and lurry, and to make the necessary arrangements for the Society's carrying. This led to the engagement of the present horsekeeper, Mr. Samuel Thorpe, as lurryman, on February 10th, 1888. At this time the Dukinfield Co-operative Society had ceased to exist, and on September 27th, 1888, a deputation of members from the late Dukinfield Society waited upon the Hyde Society's Committee with a request that they should open a branch in their midst at Dukinfield. After due consideration the Committee decided:—

That the deputation from the Dukinfield Society be requested to forward a requisition for opening a branch in that town, to be in time for the Quarterly Meeting, and that the question be placed on the agenda of business.

The Quarterly Meeting sanctioned the requisition, and a shop was rented at 72, Town Lane. This was the sixth branch, and was formally opened by the President, Mr. Joseph Swindells, supported by members of the Committee, on Thursday evening, November 1st, 1888, at 7-30 o'clock. The first night it was open for an hour, and the sales amounted to £5. Sixteen new members were also made. Up to this period grocery and butchery dividends had been separate; the dividend on butchering for the September quarter of 1888 was 1s. in the £. At the Quarterly Meeting on October 8th of the same year the following resolution was carried: "That the Butchering Department be included in the general dividend for twelve months." The effect of this alteration was a large increase in the sales of the Butchering Departments. During the twelve months the average increase per quarter was £482.

On January 18th, 1889, the town of Hyde was startled by the disastrous explosion at the Hyde Colliery. The Committee granted a sum of £50 from the reserve fund



INTERIOR OF GROCERY WAREHOUSE.





towards the relief of the widows and orphans, the money being handed over to the Mayor's relief fund. This fund is still in existence and is under the control of a town's committee. Mr. A. Shaw, J.P., has represented the Society on this committee since its formation. He has thus been a member of the relief fund committee for a period of 23 years.

In March, 1889, shares to the value of £25 were taken in the Paisley Manufacturing Society, and £20 in the Macclesfield Silk Society. On October 31st, 1889, the question of building a warehouse, stables, slaughter-house, and lairages came before the Committee, and on March 25th, 1890, a lease of land in Great Norbury Street and Railway Street was made between Mrs. Maria Anne Clarke and the Society. It is evident from a perusal of the minutes that the Committee were at variance over the best way of covering the land, as the following details will show:—

Plans and specifications submitted by Mr. John Martin were accepted on December 30th, 1889. On February 10th, 1890, plans for cottages in Great Norbury Street and Railway Street were accepted. On March 13th plans for stables, slaughter-houses, lairages, and warehouse in Railway Street were passed. On April 24th, 1890, the Committee decided to ask for tenders. On May 24th, 1890, a Special Meeting of members was called *re* the above buildings, and, on the Committee's advice, the same was adjourned for three months. The Committee, however, had quantities got out, and on July 9th, 1890, Mr. Thos. Storer's tender was accepted for the cottages, lairages, &c., in Railway Street, but not for the warehouse. They intended having a warehouse, however, for on September 14th they invited Messrs. J. Fairbrother and Co. to tender for the putting in of its foundation walls. The question was again brought before the members at the Quarterly Meeting in October of the same year. This time the members agreed, and on April 8th, 1892, Messrs. J. Fairbrother's tender for building the warehouse was accepted. The warehouse was opened

later on in the same year. In all it had taken three years to arrange. It is certain that the time spent on the question was not wasted, for visitors will find it splendidly equipped—fine slaughter-houses, lairages, bakery, stables, and warehouse. Indeed, they are often visited by delegates from other Societies, and many co-operative warehouses, &c., have been built on the same plan.

February, 1890, saw the cottage in Hyde Lane, next to the Grocery Department, converted into a Branch Butchering Shop. On March 31st, 1890, it was decided to commence millinery, dress, and mantle making, Mrs. Stott (Oldham) being engaged to take charge of same. This department was, however, never a success, and was eventually given up. Loan capital to the amount of £500 was invested in the Apethorn Mill Company Limited on August 31st, 1890. This was withdrawn in October, 1893, and April, 1894. Up to this time (1890) the Society had been buying coal from merchants, and arranging for its delivery to the members by private carriers. Such had been the practice since 1878. It was on September 15th, 1890, that the coal business was established on the system as we know it to-day. In 1896 sixteen coal wagons were bought, and at the present time the number possessed by the Society is twenty-two. These have been kept in good repair, and have been depreciated to such an extent that they are shown in the balance sheet as "nil." Since 1890 the coal business has flourished and still continues to increase. Its yearly sales now amount to over 8,200 tons. A revision of rules on December 8th, 1890, enabled the President to be eligible for re-election.

On January 12th, 1891, the Committee were empowered to open branches as required. In this respect they were soon active, and a shop in Stockport Road on a weekly rent was taken. This was opened during the quarter ending March, 1891. It proved an unwise step, for instead of encouraging fresh trade it drew its customers from Hyde Lane and Gee Cross Branches. During the September quarter of 1893 it was closed. At the same meeting a grant of £100 was made from the

RAILWAY STREET COTTAGES AND WAREHOUSE.







reserve fund to commence an insurance fund. This fund was to be built up by adding interest to the £100 each quarter. At the present time (1912) it amounts to £805. There is also a plate glass insurance fund of £100. On April 13th, 1891, the Quarterly Meeting of Members passed the following resolution, which all trade unionists will appreciate:—

That it be an instruction to the Board of Management not to accept or make any contract, involving labour, from any person or firm who do not pay the district trade union rate of wages for the whole of the labour in their employ, and, further, that the Board discourage the sub-letting of contracts.

## CHAPTER VI.

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No abilities, however splendid, can command success without intense labour and persevering application.

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*Farming—Employees' Cricket Club—Colne Vale Shares—Depreciation of Ship Canal Shares—Erection of New Premises in Commercial Street—Distress in the Town—Grant to Free Library and Technical School—Branch Opened in Newton Wood—Members Demand a Larger Dividend—Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employees' Minimum Wage Adopted—Alteration of Central Departments—Branch at Flowery Field—Public Opening—First Children's Gala—Revision of Rules.*

○ N January 4th, 1892, the Society took on a lease the farm at Woodend Lane and commenced the business of farming. In February a milk-float was bought, and on May 23rd three cows were purchased. The business of farming was not, however, a success. During its short career, which was under two years, the Society had three farmers. During the first quarter milk and butter were sold to the extent of £47. 14s. 3d., and during the first year there was a loss on the farm of £3. Thus ended the Society's experiment in the milk business. Perhaps at some future time they will *pluck up courage* and venture once more. The farm, which is situated in picturesque surroundings, lies between the Peak Forest Canal and the River Tame. Its main approach is by way of Woodend Lane, which on many occasions has been the scene of an animated throng of children and elders on their way to the Children's Gala, which is held annually amidst the pleasant surroundings of field and wood. On January 11th, 1892, the following notice of motion was given:—

*Hyde Co-operative Society Limited.*

I herewith give notice of motion that at the next succeeding Quarterly Meeting of the above Society I intend to call attention to



COMMERCIAL STREET GROCERY AND BUTCHERING.





the hours worked by our employees, and move a resolution limiting the said hours to eight per day or forty-eight per week.

Yours fraternally,

W. VICKERS.

The above resolution, however, did not meet with the approval of the members.

On April 7th, 1892, the employees commenced a Cricket Club, and were encouraged in this healthy form of recreation by the General Committee, who became patrons, as well as granting them the use of the pasture field at Woodend for matches.

In May, 1892, shares to the value of £10 were taken in the Colne Vale Corn Mill, and increased to £200 in 1904. The Bi-quarterly Meeting in July, 1892, gave the Committee power to further extend the cottage property by erecting in Queen Street three cottages.

In November, 1892, the members sanctioned the depreciation of the Society's ordinary Ship Canal shares by £100 from the reserve fund. On November 21st, 1892, Mr. Walter Aspland, Boot and Shoe Manager, resigned; he was followed on November 24th, 1892, by Mr. Walter Bunting.

On February 27th, 1893, the members granted a sum of £40 towards the relief of the distressed members. By such methods co-operators carry out their motto, "Each for all, and all for each."

On June 1st, 1893, the Bakery Department was opened and Mr. W. A. Ogden was engaged as baker.

About this time there was much distress in the town in consequence of the Coal Strike. The Society rendered what help it could, and on September 21st it was decided to grant 100 4lb. loaves, for two weeks, to the Miners' Relief Soup Kitchen. This strike was responsible for putting the coal carters on October 2nd on three days a week in turns.

The Committee at this time were alive to the needs of the members in Godley district, for they decided to build a shop of their own in Commercial Street. As

previously stated, up to this time they had rented a shop. Land and property were bought for £190, and on October 23rd, 1893, it was decided to build a grocery store adjoining the cottage. Mr. J. Bolland drew up the plans, and its erection was entrusted to Jas. Fairbrother, junr., and Co., at a cost of £357.

The Society has at all times met the claims of trade unionists in a friendly spirit, and on November 30th, 1893, it was decided "that we give a written guarantee not to purchase hats from any manufacturers who do not pay the standard rate of wages." The Committee also wrote to the various hatters' societies in the district inquiring whether certain firms were paying the standard required. Whether the employees were becoming too much engrossed in dog and poultry breeding is not quite certain, but the Committee on February 12th, 1894, thought fit to pass the following resolution: "That no servant be allowed to keep dogs or poultry on the Society's premises."

On April 6th, 1894, Mr. J. W. Hodgson was appointed Manager of the Drapery Department in succession to Mr. J. W. Bird.

The Manchester Ship Canal not turning out the immediate financial success that was at first anticipated, the members at the Bi-quarterly Meeting on May 28th, 1894, passed the following resolution:—

That this meeting recommends to the next Quarterly Meeting the advisability of selling the Society's ordinary shares in the Manchester Ship Canal Company.

The Committee made inquiries into the position, and obtained from the Co-operative Union information respecting the attitude that other societies in the same position were taking up. At the Quarterly Meeting on July 9th the members decided that the shares should be retained, and that they be further reduced by £200 from the reserve fund. These shares have now been reduced from £1,500 to £150, at which figures they now appear in the balance sheet.



FURNACE STREET BRANCH GROCERY.







FURNACE STREET BRANCH BUTCHERING.



On January 14th, 1895, Mr. Thomas Brownson and Mr. Peter Green waited upon the Quarterly Meeting as a deputation from the Technical Instruction Committee, and appealed for financial support in aid of the New Technical Schools and Free Library for the Borough. As a result of this appeal the members granted £100 from the reserve fund.

At the Quarterly Meeting of April 8th a resolution was passed expressing deep regret at the loss sustained by the co-operative movement generally through the death of Mr. J. T. W. Mitchell, who for twenty-one years was chairman of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

In January, 1896, Mr. Jonathan Andrew was appointed as the Society's first representative on the Technical Instruction Committee.

The members granted the Committee power to open a branch in Newton Wood district in February; this was the present shop, which was rented and opened for business in the March quarter.

The premises were purchased in 1907, and extensive alterations were made by Messrs. Norgrove and Sons, under the supervision of Mr. S. Mellor, who drew up the plans.

The interest on share capital was reduced in July from  $4\frac{1}{6}$  per cent to  $3\frac{3}{4}$  per cent on ten times the amount of purchase.

At the Quarterly Meeting in January, 1897, the Committee recommended to the members a dividend of 3s., and that the balance of profit amounting to £250 should go to form a dividend reserve fund. The members, however, would not accept this, but demanded that the whole of the profit made should be distributed, and, carrying a resolution against the Committee, a dividend of 3s. 4d. was paid.

A grant of £25 was given from the reserve fund on February 22nd, 1897, to the Indian Famine Relief Fund, and ten guineas to the Penrhyn Quarrymen's Strike Fund.



In October £100 was granted towards the relief of distress caused by the engineers' lockout.

An important resolution from a worker's point of view was passed on February 9th, 1899, as follows:—

That a minimum wage of twenty-four shillings per week be established for all male shop assistants over 21 years who are members of the Co-operative Employees' Union.

On November 25th, 1897, Mr. W. Wibberley, the Butchering Manager, resigned, and was followed by Mr. T. W. Parkes on November 29th.

In 1899 extensive alterations were made to the premises in Market Street and Newton Street, the Central Butchering Department being transferred to its present position in Newton Street, and the Tailoring Department established at the corner of Charles Street, Mr. F. Biggins being appointed the first Tailoring Manager on February 5th, 1900, the first week's sale being £14.

The members granted the Committee power on August 28th, 1899, to erect a branch shop and five houses in Flowery Field. Mr. J. Lindley was appointed architect, and Messrs. J. Robinson and Sons builders. Land was taken from the Astley Estate in Furnace Street, and on August 18th, 1900, the shop was opened amidst general rejoicing by the President, Mr. Alphonso Whitehead. The opening ceremony was made the occasion of a demonstration and children's day, the latter being the first of a series. Headed by the Adamson Reed Band, the children and members of the Women's Guild and members and officials (past and present) of the Society walked in procession to the new premises. Mr. William Clifford, an ex-President and one of the oldest members of the Society, presented Mr. Alphonso Whitehead with a silver key to open the shop. Mr. Whitehead, in his remarks, said:—

I desire first to express to my Committee my very sincere thanks for the honour they have conferred upon me this afternoon in asking me to open this branch at Flowery Field. This is the eighth branch that we have opened at Hyde, and it is the first time that we have found courage to make a public demonstration. I



ASTLEY STREET COTTAGES, FLOWERY FIELD.



am thankful, too, because Flowery Field is worthy of a demonstration. Twenty years ago, when dark clouds of misfortune dropped upon us, and many people began to lose faith in us, Flowery Field people remained firm, and have done so ever since. I desire to express to my Committee my thanks for the beautiful key, and I can assure you that it will be one of my most cherished possessions.

Mrs. Walker (President of the Women's Guild) proposed a vote of thanks to the opener, which was seconded by Mr. T. Hadfield. The procession was then re-formed and proceeded to the proposed new park, which was kindly lent by John Cooke, Esq., J.P. Here sports were held. One event—a tug-of-war between the Committees of the Women's Guild and General Committee—was the cause of much merriment, for the ladies by means of “fair” play ignominiously beat the men. During the afternoon refreshments were served to children and adults. The prizes gained during the day were presented at dusk by Mrs. Walker and Mr. Whitehead, and an enjoyable day was brought to a close by the band playing the National Anthem. There were about 1,000 adults and 2,000 children present.

On December 4th, 1899, a grant of £25 was given to the Mayor's Fund for the relief of the wives and children of the reservists who had gone out to the Transvaal during the South African War.

The Bi-quarterly Meeting of February 26th, 1900, decided that the office of Treasurer should be separated from the general office work. This decision led to the appointment by the members of Mr. Abraham Ashton as Treasurer, a position he still holds. Mr. Ashton has been a lifelong co-operator, his father being one of the pioneers of the Hyde Society. Previous to becoming a member of the Hyde Society he was for a number of years Secretary of the Dukinfield Society, and occupied that position at the time of its winding up.

Mr. Walter Bunting (the Boot and Shoe Manager) resigned on March 7th, 1901. During the time he was Manager the business was considerably developed. On March 21st the Committee appointed Mr. W. Butterworth to the vacant position.



At the Annual Meeting of members held on April 8th, 1901, the members passed the following resolution relating to Mr. Alphonso Whitehead, the retiring President: "That the best thanks of this meeting be given to the President for his eight years' service to the Society."

A Special Meeting for revision of rules was held on April 22nd, the principal alterations being that committeemen should be eligible for re-election, and the commencement of a dividend reserve fund by allocating to such fund certain profits after payment of a 3s. dividend. Both were very important alterations, and their effect has been most beneficial to the Society, for by making committeemen eligible for re-election a continuity of policy is made possible. A dividend reserve fund makes for the security of a uniform dividend, and the prevention of great fluctuations in trade and membership. These changes have contributed to greater pleasantness, stability, and cohesiveness in the Society's business.

The Society having gained a seat on the Colne Vale Corn Mill Board, appointed Mr. Henry Lees as the Society's representative on August 12th, 1901.



NEWTON WOOD GROCERY.



## CHAPTER VII.

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Some men are born great; others achieve greatness by striving for the welfare of their community.

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*The Society caters for the Local Coronation Festivities of Edward VII.—Help given to Distressed Members—Shares taken in Hyde Spinning Company—Formation of Co-operative Laundry Association—New Branch Erected in Town Lane, Dukinfield—Extensive Alterations to Premises in Hyde Lane—Collective Life Assurance Scheme Adopted—New Check System—Further Revision of Rules—Mr. Allen Shaw, J.P.*

○ N May 1st, 1902, Mr. Biggins, the Tailoring Manager, resigned. He was followed by Mr. H. R. Friar (Lincoln), who was appointed on June 2nd.

On Coronation Day, June 26th, the Society undertook the catering at the Park in a marquee provided by the town's authorities. What a rush it was! Teas being supplied in the Hall and refreshments at the tent. Food to the amount of over £50 was sold, and twenty-one gross of mineral waters, &c., the total day's receipts being £92.

The Quarterly Meeting of members held on October 13th voted £75 towards the fund of £100,000 being raised by the Co-operative Union for the purpose of counter-acting the boycotting tactics of private traders in various towns. The traders in question began by dismissing employees who were members of Co-operative Societies and victimising others. These tactics whenever they have been adopted have eventually had an opposite effect to that which the traders desired. It was found that Societies gained a greater number of members and a larger trade. Up to the present time Hyde Society has only been called upon for a very small percentage of the sum voted. The Union's fund is still in existence, and will be used whenever circumstances call for further action.



In August Mr. Philip Marshall was elected on the Board of the Macclesfield Silk Society, a position he still holds.

In July, 1903, £15 in shares and £5 in loan were invested in the Bethesda Slate Quarries Limited. These quarries were taken to help the men who had been out on strike at the Penrhyn Slate Quarries, the shares being increased to £25 in January, 1905, and a further sum of £50 (including the loan of £5) in mortgage bonds in June, 1907. The quarries have not, however, turned out a success, and at the present time are in the hands of liquidators.

On Friday, September 25th, a branch for Drapery and Boots and Shoes was opened in Hyde Lane at the corner of Queen Street. The first quarter's sales were £209.

Towards the end of 1903 and early in 1904 distress was again very prevalent in the town owing to the shortage of the American cotton crop. The members at the January Quarterly Meeting granted £100 towards the relief of distressed members, £80 of which was left in the Committee's control and £20 paid to the Mayor's Fund. At the same meeting a grant of £25 was made to the Cotton Growing Association's Guarantee Fund. The members also decided to take sixty £1 shares in the North-Western Convalescent Homes Association. These shares bear no interest and are not withdrawable. The Homes are situated at Blackpool and Otley. Many members of the Hyde Society have been inmates of these Homes, and speak very highly of the arrangements made for their comfort. Occasionally letters of thanks appear in the "Wheatsheaf" testifying to improvement in health as a result of their stay. In passing, we might mention the Home at Roden, near Shrewsbury, owned by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and to which many of our members have been to recuperate.

On Saturday, March 26th, the Society entertained the Educational Committee's Association Conference, the delegates being invited to assemble at the warehouse,



TOWN LANE BRANCH, DUKINFIELD—GROCERY AND COTTAGE.



and afterwards they were taken to inspect the Fire Station, Technical School, and Free Library. The members at the Quarterly Meeting in October made a grant of 1½d. per member towards the relief of the members of the Mexboro' and Thorne Society. This amounted to £15. The Committee opened a soup kitchen in November owing to the continued distress, and in January, 1905, they were empowered by the members to expend £10 in relief during the current quarter to members only. At a Special Meeting of members held on March 13th, 1905, the following resolution was passed: "That the Society take up 250 shares in the proposed Hyde Spinning Company Limited."

On June 28th, 1906, Mr. H. R. Friar (Tailoring Manager) resigned, having accepted a similar position with the Derby Society. He was succeeded by Mr. George Reid, who is still with the Society. On Saturday, July 7th, the Society's horses and luries were decorated and joined the demonstration and parade in aid of the Mayor's Benevolent Fund. So fine was the display that it called forth the following resolution at the Quarterly Meeting of members held two days later:—

That the best thanks of this meeting be given to the General Manager, Departmental Managers, and the carters for the excellent display made at the Demonstration on Saturday, July 7th.

The death of the Manager (Mr. W. H. Stott) in December caused general regret. He had been in failing health for some months, and had been away from business for about six weeks. The Committee at their meeting on December 20th passed the following resolution:—

That it is with deep regret that the Board hear of the death of Mr. W. H. Stott (Manager), and would place on record our appreciation of the long and faithful service rendered by him to the Society as first counterman for three and a half years, and afterwards as Manager for twenty years, and that a letter of condolence be sent to his widow and family in their bereavement.

The members at the Quarterly Meeting in January decided to express their sympathy in a similar manner. The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon, December 22nd, the shops being closed from 2-30 to 4 p.m. as a mark



of respect. During his twenty years' management the business had grown enormously. On his appointment the year's sales were £42,117 and the dividend £4,940. In 1906 the sales had reached £78,399, the dividend in the same year being £11,507. During the same period the number of members increased from 1,947 to 2,793, and the following branches opened:—Grocery: Commercial Street, Mottram Road, Town Lane, Newton Wood, and Furnace Street. Butchering: Newton, Hyde Lane, Commercial Street, Mottram Road, and Furnace Street. Drapery: Hyde Lane. Warehouse, bakery, and tailoring. Truly a great record!

Mr. Alfred H. Booth, our present Manager, was appointed on February 14th, 1907. He was engaged as check-boy (as mentioned earlier) on April 13th, 1875. After twelve months he was placed behind the counter and given a check book. He was so small that he had to have a box behind the counter so that he could cut his own butter. In 1882 he was promoted to be Branch Manager at Gee Cross. Two years afterwards he went to manage the No. 1 Branch at Newton, and, later, was made head shopman at the Central. In 1886 he was a candidate for the position of General Manager, which position was, however, given to Mr. W. H. Stott. The reason given at the time was that he (Mr. Booth) was too young. This disappointment must have been very great, for it is said that he remarked to the Chairman, who explained the reason for his not getting the position: "Well, you have put me back twenty years." It is a very singular coincidence that the remark should come true, for twenty years later he gained the coveted position. From check-boy to Manager is a great stride. Mr. Booth has thus been with the Society the whole of his working life. Since his appointment the record sales of the Society were reached in 1909, when they totalled nearly £91,000. During his first year the sales increased £9,000. His great ideal is to see the sales reach £100,000 per annum.



JEFFREY STREET COTTAGES, DUKINFIELD.





Co-OPERATIVE LAUNDRY.





On July 23rd, 1907, the Committees of the following Societies, Hyde, Compstall, Denton, Woodley, Haughton Green, and Hollingworth, met in the Boardroom to discuss the desirability of forming a Laundry Association. This meeting led to the formation of the Hyde and District Co-operative Laundries Association Limited, which is composed of the following Societies: Hyde, Denton, Hollingworth, Haughton Green, and Woodley. Premises in Russell Street, Hyde, were purchased and filled up with the best type of laundry machinery, and were opened on May 28th, 1908. The various Societies agreed to pay full dividend out of their own revenue to members doing business with the Laundry until it became self-supporting. Capital in the Association is held by the various Societies as follows:—Hyde, £1,452; Denton, £586; Hollingworth, £382; Haughton Green, £206; Woodley, £200; two private shareholders, £2; total, £2,828. The representatives from Hyde on the Laundry Board at the present time are Mr. J. Mottram, Mr. R. A. Green, and Mr. J. Bunting.

On March 9th, 1908, the Committee adopted the minimum rate of wages in the Grocery Department as per the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employees' scale. In the same month boot-repairing machinery was introduced.

In May land was taken in Town Lane, Dukinfield, on the opposite side of the road to the branch, for the purpose of building new branch premises. Mr. H. Stott (Hyde) was engaged as architect, and in the following October the tender of Messrs. Norgrove and Sons was accepted for the buildings of branch shop and one house in Town Lane and two houses in Jeffrey Street. The shop was opened for business on Friday afternoon, September 17th, 1909. It was found necessary at this time to increase the accommodation at the Hyde Lane Drapery Branch. The sales had grown to such an extent that the shop had become too small for the trade, and so the Committee decided to put up an entirely new block of premises, comprising Furnishing, Drapery, and Boot and Shoe

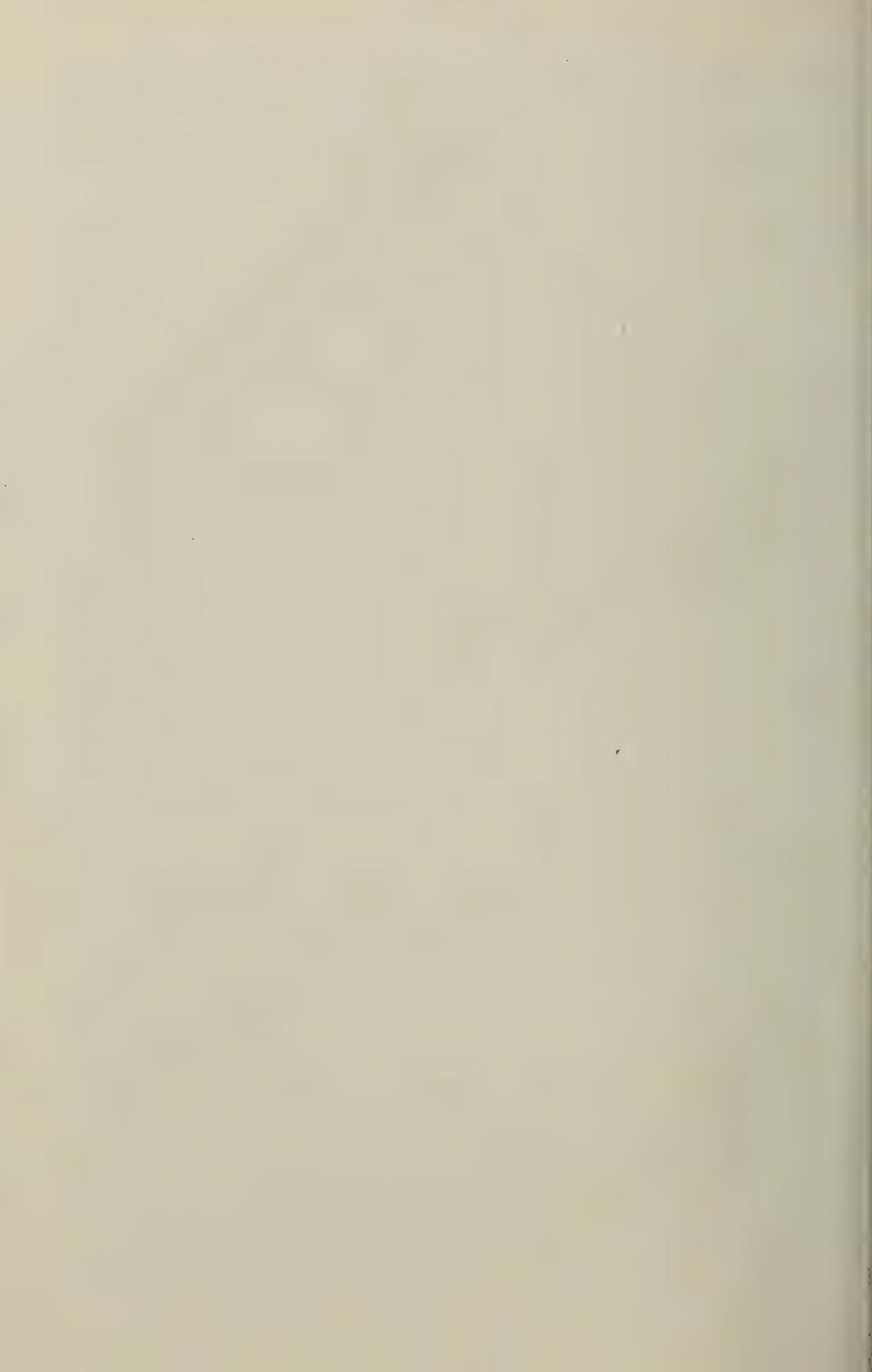
Departments. Mr. Allan Dew (Hyde) was engaged as architect, and on April 2nd, 1908, the work of erection was given to Mr. Mark Warrington (Hyde). It was found necessary to demolish a house and shop in Hyde Lane and one house in Queen Street. These stood in the balance sheet at over £600, and this amount was depreciated £100 per quarter until it was wiped out. The premises were finished in February, 1909. The opening ceremony took place on Saturday, February 27th, a large number of members and delegates from neighbouring Societies being present. Mr. Thomas Jones (member of the Committee) presided, and in a few appropriate remarks called on Mr. Dew, who presented a gold key to the President (Mr. Allen Shaw). In declaring the premises open for business Mr. Shaw said it was only about five years since the Committee decided to begin a Branch Drapery business in the small shop which stood on the present site. They had then doubts about the wisdom of such a venture, but they were successful from the beginning. The Drapery shop which had been previously in use was soon crowded, and not only on the ground of convenience, but on account of the health of the employees, new premises had to be found. They had also been in difficulties in supplying the members with furniture. A Furniture Department had therefore been included in the new structure. One thing he wished to impress upon them was the fact that all the furniture had been made under good conditions. He had pleasure in declaring the premises open for business.

Mr. T. E. Moorhouse (Co-operative Wholesale Society's Director) addressed the gathering inside the building. He said he had always looked upon the Hyde Society as being one of the progressive Societies of the movement. The time had arrived when those who made the wealth should have a greater share of it than they had had in the past. Co-operation was doing a great deal to bring about this state of things. In conclusion, he wished success to the new Branch and to the Society in general. An inspection of the premises was afterwards made, and expressions of delight at the beautiful articles displayed



INTERIOR OF CO-OPERATIVE LAUNDRY.





and the appearance of the building were heard on all sides. The delegates present were afterwards entertained to tea by the Society. Mr. H. Dennerley was appointed first Manager of the Furnishing Department.

On July 23rd, 1908, Mr. T. W. Parkes (the Manager of the Butchering Department) resigned. He was followed by Mr. C. S. Briggs, who was appointed on August 6th.

The Co-operative Insurance Society's Collective Life Assurance Scheme was adopted at the Quarterly Meeting of members held on January 10th, 1910. By paying 1d. in the £ on sales as a premium every member is assured at death to the extent of 4s. for every £1 of purchases on a three years' average. Since its inception claims have been paid to members ranging from 8s. to £32.

A subscription of £1. 1s. was given on March 3rd to the funds being raised by the Co-operative Union for the relief of distress in Paris caused by the floods. This was in response to an appeal from French co-operators.

The Fielding-Wood system of checking was recommended by the Committee to the members at the Quarterly Meeting of July 11th, 1910, and was adopted, this change superseding the book system which had been in use over a quarter of a century.

On October 13th Mr. H. Dennerley resigned the management of the Furnishing Department, and the Committee promoted Mr. J. W. Hodgson as Manager of the Drapery and Furnishing on November 24th.

Mr. Butterworth (the Boot and Shoe Manager) resigned on May 4th, 1911, having accepted a similar position with the Stalybridge Society. He was followed by Mr. E. Keeton (Rochdale), who was appointed on May 18th, and he is still with the Society.

Mr. Thomas Heginbottom was appointed as the Society's representative on Colne Vale Board on August 21st.

At the Quarterly Meeting of members held on July 10th regret was expressed at the demise of Mr. Alphonso Whitehead (an ex-President of the Society), whose official connection with the Society commenced in the year 1876. He was first elected on the Committee at the memorable meeting in the Hyde Theatre, January, 1876, Chairman on April 4th, and after a revision of rules in the early part of 1877 he was on April 3rd re-elected as the first President of the Society. He took a strong interest in the Society right up to his death.

At a Special Meeting of members held at the close of the Quarterly Meeting on October 9th, and adjourned until October 16th, a committee for the revision of rules was appointed, consisting of Messrs. S. Rawsthorne, John Oakes, Abel Gee, from the members, and Messrs. J. Mottram, P. Marshall, T. Jones, with the President (Mr. Shaw) from the Board of Management. The rules now in force are the result of their labours, the principal alterations being the deletion of the rule which debarred servants from voting on elections for Committee-men, &c. A purchase qualification was added, and was made to apply to any office. The building rules were also altered and brought up to date.

On November 2nd, 1911, the Committee granted a weekly allowance to Mr. Joshua Holland on his retirement after thirty-five years' service to the Society.

A Sub-Committee was appointed on November 30th to consider the bakery problem. For some time the question of improved baking accommodation had occupied the attention of the Committee, and no doubt the history of the early portion of the next fifty years will mention a new bakehouse.

In January, 1912, Mr. Allen Shaw was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the County of Chester.

On January 8th the Committee decided to commemorate the occasion by presenting him with an illuminated address. At the Quarterly Meeting held the same evening, the members agreed with the decision and desired to be



# T. Allen Shaw Esq. JP

**W**elcome Sir,  
the undersigned Board of Management Officers and Members  
of **The Hope Equitable Cooperative Society Limited**, desire to  
place on record our hearty congratulations to you on your appointment to  
a seat on the **Counsell Bench of Magistrates for Cheshire**.  
We recognise your many qualifications for the Office to which you have  
been appointed and trust you may long be enabled to fulfil those duties.

We are not unmindful of the many services rendered to the Co-operative  
Movement during your long term of office, as also the many Institutions in the  
District which you have taken so prominent a part.

In conclusion we wish you and your good lady health and prosperity.

We remain Yours respectfully,

Committee	Management	Ministers	Officers
Robert Moore	Isabel Westing	Henry Lees	Abraham Nelson
Thomas Jones	Joseph Mottram	Joseph Edwards	Alfred M. Booth
Dr. W. Marshall	Richard A. Green	Samuel Whitburne	Robert Rose
Thomas Higginbottom	James O'Shaughnessy	Henry Warhurst	





associated with it, appointing four of their number to sign the address. Mr. A. Moores and Mr. T. Jones were intrusted with the carrying out of the address. The design was executed by Mr. H. W. Wallace, a member of the Society, and was presented to Mr. Shaw at the April Quarterly Meeting by Mr. A. Moores, the oldest member of the Committee. Mr. Shaw thanked the members for the token as an appreciation of his services to the Society. He said the honour of J.P. had not been sought by him: he thought that it was the recognition of the Society and its work, as much as a personal honour for himself. He would seek to so fulfil the duties so that at no time would he bring discredit to the Society. Mr. Shaw has been officially connected with the Society over twenty-nine years. He was first elected on the Committee in 1883, and has been President from March, 1901, to the present time.

On February 29th Mr. C. S. Briggs (the Butchering Manager) resigned, and he was followed by the present Manager, Mr. J. Mitchell.

At the Quarterly Meeting of April 8th, 1912, which signalised the close of fifty years' existence of the Society, Mr. John Oakes and Mr. Francis Vickers were elected delegates to the Congress at Portsmouth, Mr. Vickers being the first employee member to gain such an honour.

## CHAPTER VIII.

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Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labour and to wait.

—*H. W. Longfellow.*

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### **The Society's Present Position and a Few Facts relating thereto.**

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**A**T the present time the Society does a yearly trade of about £87,000. Its share capital is nearly £49,000, and its members number over 3,200. It owns twenty-eight houses, eight grocery and five butchering branches, one drapery, one furnishing, and one boot and shoe branch, besides the Central Premises in Newton Street and Market Street, which comprise General Offices, Grocery, Butchering, Boot and Shoe, Drapery, and Tailoring Departments. It also possesses warehouse, slaughter-houses, bakery, lairages, and stables. It also has a reading-room and library, as well as an assembly room at Newton. It employs in its various departments eighty-eight persons, and pays £6,511 a year in wages.

The general statement for the last quarter in the fifty years' working is as follows:—



HYDE LANE DRAPERY AND FURNISHING.







QUEEN STREET COTTAGES.



# GENERAL STATEMENT, Quarter ended March 29th, 1912.

LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Members' Share Capital .....	49029	11	9	Buildings, &c. ....			
Small Savings Bank .....	3086	2	4½	Cottages .....	4727	6	7
Sundry Creditors, &c. ....	1738	19	1	Loans on Mortgage ...	8739	13	0
C.W.S. Housing Advances .....	689	12	8	Shares and Interest....	6335	0	7
Total Reserves .....	2843	3	7	Loans and Interest ....	7344	18	6
Balance Profit Disposable.....	3691	12	4½				
				Owing by Members, &c. ....	27146	18	8
				Stocks, &c. ....	1873	11	7
				Cash in Bank .....	11910	1	6
				„ Secretary's hands	5467	17	2
					3	7	6
					5471	4	8

£61079 1 10

£61079 1 10



# A Statement showing the Position of the Society at the end

Date.	Number of Members.	Amount of Sales.		£ Checks Brought in.	DIVIDEND.			SHARE CAPITAL.		
					Amount.	Rate per £.		Amount.	Average per Member.	
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1862	..	3795	8	4	2697	127	19 8	1173	18	13
1863	..	4112	10	0	3374	215	18 0	963	10	4
1864	..	4440	0	0	3589	247	14 9	955	9	9
1865	..	5790	17	9	4598	356	13 0	1261	8	4
1866	..	13029	0	0	10462	1041	8 3	2553	7	8
1867	..	24814	0	0	21148	2164	5 1	4014	9	6
1868	..	34668	13	9	31988	3099	6 4	4734	18	0
1869	..	37543	6	2	33803	3389	6 0	5189	0	10
1870	..	40126	6	0	35701	3419	9 10	4923	15	2
1871	..	41820	17	6	36698	3707	4 2	5214	9	0
1872	..	46231	2	0	40400	3915	19 4	5522	10	5
1873	..	52847	9	5	47891	4977	13 3	6206	9	1
1874	..	53447	12	4	54148	5687	17 8	6836	15	6
1875	..	48796	8	5	49009	4545	1 3	7270	1	4
1876	1629	45170	14	8	45479	6234	12 3	5679	3	6
1877	1922	62709	13	2	63424	8807	8 0	7828	15	9
1878	2030	67202	0	4	67858	11163	19 6	13960	0	8
1879	1791	54715	16	11	54349	7351	10 4	13374	2	8
1880	1629	52893	2	8	53014	5891	11 4	13025	3	6
1881	1606	49844	2	10	49878	6582	14 0	14564	3	11
1882	1696	57523	2	7	57465	7539	5 9	16526	15	6
1883	1853	61536	15	10	61664	8531	8 0	21141	15	3
1884	1975	58437	18	4	58911	7729	9 2	22825	1	6
1885	2147	48650	17	1	47581	6872	12 7	25774	12	3
1886	1947	42117	19	1	41485	4940	4 9	25468	3	9
1887	1997	45880	15	2	44576	5898	6 4	24604	10	4
1888	2349	53375	3	9	52748	7330	0 10	26024	5	6
1889	2463	63420	0	3	62302	8180	11 0	27002	18	0
1890	2604	64186	13	5	63070	9138	6 0	29483	2	9
1891	2899	78735	18	6	77635	11240	15 0	32189	11	5
1892	2834	74722	14	2	73356	9550	11 4	34372	6	9
1893	2622	63579	15	5	61650	7572	19 6	32734	18	10
1894	2433	59651	16	4	57926	7545	16 9	33111	18	8
1895	2406	62382	3	0	61965	8713	9 7	34505	18	3
1896	2445	63128	6	2	62458	9189	5 0	36066	7	5
1897	2467	65393	14	1	64406	9406	7 6	34527	18	5
1898	2470	65133	15	5	65306	9256	13 8	35616	17	8
1899	2537	69041	10	2	68117	9802	5 10	38554	15	1
1900	2585	73772	14	2	71491	9912	1 5	38710	14	10
1901	2422	67710	2	3	65477	8516	13 7	35042	11	7
1902	2519	69031	13	5	66939	10040	17 0	35053	13	0
1903	2589	70751	12	5	68520	10278	0 0	35621	5	10
1904	2668	71040	12	3	68972	10845	16 0	35945	7	9
1905	2729	76879	5	7	73203	10980	9 0	37768	12	2
1906	2793	78399	13	4	76716	11507	8 0	41134	7	5
1907	2971	87332	19	6	84988	12748	4 0	45039	17	2
1908	3112	88328	2	7	86291	12948	13 0	46306	16	7
1909	3177	90942	1	6	89266	13389	18 0	46801	17	8
1910	3144	87616	15	8	86309	12946	7 0	47349	9	8
1911	3125	85091	17	8	83897	12584	11 0	48548	15	4
		278799	11	7	2714288	367559	18 7	..	..	..

of each Year from the commencement to the end of 1911.

PROPERTY AND FIXED STOCK.													
AMOUNT EXPENDED.						DEPRECIATION.						Nominal Value at end of Year.	
Last Year.		This Year.		Total Payments.		Previously Written off.		This Year.		Total.			
£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		
1123	1 5	....		1123	1 5	....		36	15 4	36	15 4	1086	6 1
1123	1 5	49	1 7	1172	3 0	36	15 4	143	15 2	180	10 6	991	12 6
1172	3 0	....		1172	3 0	180	10 6	100	12 0	281	2 6	891	0 6
1172	3 0	21	5 10	1193	8 10	281	2 6	145	19 8	427	2 2	766	6 8
1193	8 10	....		1193	8 10	427	2 2	153	13 3	580	15 5	612	13 5
1193	8 10	186	6 3	1379	15 1	580	15 5	193	3 5	773	18 10	605	16 3
1379	15 1	102	15 1	1482	10 2	773	18 10	197	1 3	971	0 1	511	10 1
1482	10 2	40	0 0	1522	10 2	971	0 1	210	2 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1181	2 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	341	7 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
1522	10 2	....		1522	10 2	1181	2 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	227	2 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1408	4 11	114	5 3
1522	10 2	335	16 6	1858	6 8	1408	4 11	235	1 3	1643	6 2	215	0 6
1558	6 8	66	8 5	1924	15 1	1643	6 2	281	8 11	1924	15 1	nil.	
1924	15 1	....		1924	15 1	1924	15 1	....		1924	15 1	nil.	
1924	15 1	190	16 8	2115	11 9	1924	15 1	190	16 8	2115	11 9	nil.	
2115	11 9	1273	4 9	3388	16 6	2115	11 9	401	12 0	2517	3 9	871	12 9
3388	16 6	141	10 4	3520	6 10	2517	3 9	220	10 11	2737	14 8	792	12 2
3520	6 10	995	13 11	4516	0 9	2737	14 8	336	11 7	3074	6 3	1441	14 0
4516	0 9	1096	1 9	5612	2 6	3074	6 3	723	6 9	3797	13 0	1814	9 6
5612	2 6	1976	2 7	7588	5 1	3797	13 0	228	17 0	4026	10 0	3561	15 1
7588	5 1	792	4 7	8380	9 8	4026	10 0	322	13 9	4349	3 9	4031	5 11
8380	9 8	137	17 10	8518	7 6	4349	3 9	263	5 11	4612	9 8	3905	17 10
8518	7 6	1645	15 0	10164	2 6	4612	9 8	320	11 4	4933	1 0	5231	1 6
10164	2 6	1373	10 6	11537	13 0	4933	1 0	347	6 6	5280	7 6	6257	5 6
11537	13 0	1481	9 1	13019	2 1	5280	7 6	339	5 4	5619	12 10	7399	9 3
13019	2 1	1362	19 2	14382	1 3	5619	12 10	334	11 0	5954	3 10	8427	17 5
14382	1 3	617	18 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	14999	19 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5954	3 10	550	15 2	6504	19 0	8495	0 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
14999	19 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	105	12 5	15105	12 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	6504	19 0	537	2 6	7042	1 6	8063	10 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
15105	12 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	289	11 11	15395	3 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	7042	1 6	463	10 0	7505	11 6	7889	12 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
15395	3 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	188	4 11	15583	8 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	7505	11 6	632	17 3	8138	8 9	7445	0 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
15583	8 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	645	7 3	16228	16 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	8133	8 9	452	17 8	8591	6 5	7637	9 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
16228	16 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2120	6 2	18349	2 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	8591	6 5	475	2 9	9066	9 2	9282	13 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
18349	2 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2110	15 1	20459	17 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	9066	9 2	679	7 2	9745	16 4	10714	1 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
20459	17 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1686	16 10	22146	14 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	9745	16 4	357	14 4	10103	10 8	12043	3 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
22146	14 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	678	17 4	22825	11 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	10103	10 8	372	3 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	10475	14 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	12349	17 3
22825	11 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	573	17 8	23399	9 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	10475	14 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	367	2 8	10842	16 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	12556	12 3
23399	9 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	217	13 3	23617	2 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	10842	16 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	421	10 11	11264	7 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	12352	14 7
23617	2 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1019	13 3	24636	15 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	11264	7 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	465	6 2	11729	14 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	12907	1 8
24636	15 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	524	16 1	25161	11 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	11729	14 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	499	12 5	12229	6 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	12932	5 4
25161	11 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2057	18 5	27219	10 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	12229	6 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	578	0 2	12807	6 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	14412	3 7
27219	10 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	3622	11 4	30842	1 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	12807	6 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	713	13 5	13521	0 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	17321	1 6
30842	1 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	712	1 9	31554	3 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	13521	0 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	634	7 5	14155	7 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	17398	15 10
31554	3 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	247	13 6	31801	16 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	14155	7 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	603	1 1	14758	8 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	17043	8 3
31801	16 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	395	5 11	32197	2 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	14758	8 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	635	2 11	15393	11 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	16803	11 3
32197	2 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1105	7 7	33302	10 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	15393	11 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	654	5 2	16047	16 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	17254	13 8
33302	10 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	400	11 0	33703	1 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	16047	16 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	683	4 8	16731	1 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	16972	0 0
33703	1 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1008	16 4	34711	17 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	16731	1 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	698	17 7	17429	18 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	17281	18 9
34711	17 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	621	14 1	35333	11 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	17429	18 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	713	0 8	18142	19 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	17190	12 2
35333	11 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1996	17 2	37830	8 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	18142	19 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	629	18 11	18772	18 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	18557	10 5
37830	8 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2898	4 4	40228	13 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	18772	18 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1063	5 0	19386	3 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	20392	9 9
40228	13 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	488	5 7	40716	18 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	19386	3 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	957	5 8	20793	9 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	19923	9 8
40716	18 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2	5 0	40719	3 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	20793	9 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	671	17 4	21465	6 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	19253	17 4

## CHAPTER IX.

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Education is desirable for all mankind. It is the life's necessity for co-operators.—*Professor Stuart, Gloucester Congress, 1879.*

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### The Educational Side of the Hyde Equitable Co-operative Society Limited.

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THE Educational side of Co-operative enterprise was entered upon when the Society attained its twentieth year, and its commercial success assured. At the Quarterly Meeting in October, 1881, the propriety of forming an Educational Department was discussed, and it was decided to allocate one per cent of the net profits to that purpose.

The first payment to the Educational Department was made in December, 1881, and amounted to £21. 1s. Its first real work dates from February 28th, 1882, when Edward O. Greening, Esq., delivered a lecture in the Temperance Hall. A report of the lecture in the Hyde news of the *Ashton Reporter* shows that it was well attended, and that the principles of co-operation were very lucidly explained. After this lecture steps of a practical nature were speedily taken, and on November 2nd, 1882, the first reading-room was opened. The following account of the opening is taken from the *North Cheshire Herald* of November 11th, 1882:—

On Thursday evening week new reading-rooms were opened at the bottom of Charles Street. The buildings have been purchased and fitted up with every requisite to serve the purpose of a reading-room and smokeroom at a total cost of £1,200 [this amount





A. WHITEHEAD. D. ANDREW. H. EDWARDS, *President*. J. HOPKINSON. J. ANDREW.  
E. SHELMEKDINE. H. REDFERN. J. SCHOFIELD, *Secretary*. T. PROCTOR. J. TETLOW.





includes the shops on ground floor]. The President (Mr. Henry Edwards), in opening the rooms, said the Society had been established nineteen or twenty years, and they had up to now done nothing for educational advancement. At the Quarterly Meeting twelve months ago a resolution was adopted to deduct one per cent from the dividend for educational purposes. This had realised over £74. The Secretary (Mr. J. Schofield) deserved great praise for having kept the educational question before the Committee. He had great pleasure in declaring the rooms open, and hoped to see the time when they would have a building large enough to hold them at their annual gathering. Other speakers were Mr. A. Whitehead, Mr. H. Redfern, Mr. T. Proctor, Mr. J. Andrew, Mr. Tetlow, Mr. D. Andrew, Mr. J. Schofield (Secretary), and Mr. S. Bamford (Manchester).

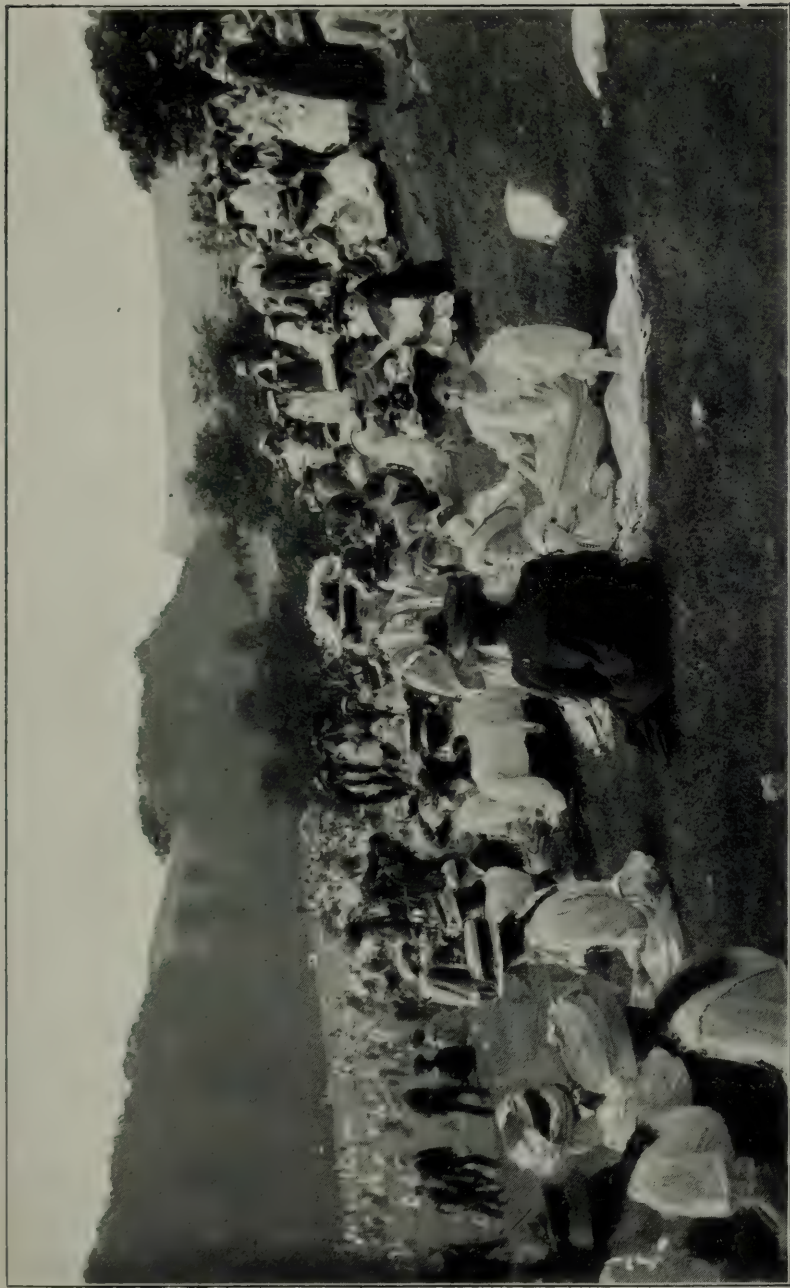
In the December quarter of 1883 the Branch Reading-room at Newton was opened. This soon proved itself very useful to the members resident in this part of the borough. It became very popular, and certainly justified the Committee's enterprise.

As stated in a previous chapter, the revision of rules in 1883 gave the management of the Educational Department to a Special Committee of seven members, and a grant of not less than one per cent of the profits for its financial support. The first Educational Committee, appointed in 1883, was composed of the following: William Macfarlane (President), George H. Parker (Secretary), William Stanton (Treasurer), Samuel Rawsthorne, Elijah Rowbotham, Benjamin Heywood, and William Scott.

An interesting item in the educational accounts for March, 1884, and one which brings a familiar figure to the minds of the older members, relates to the payment of 2s. to the bellman (Mr. Wm. Moorhouse). It is evident that the town crier was a medium of advertising the various lectures, concerts, &c., of the department. Prominent among the early excursions were a series of rambles. One of these on September 13th, 1884, was over Coombs Rocks, and was conducted by the Rev. J. K. Smith, a former minister of Flowery Field Church. Mr. Smith gave a lecture of a geological and botanical nature. Tea was served to over a hundred persons at the Charlesworth Gardens. The members at this time

combined learning with pleasure. Lectures, concerts, and excursions have formed a prominent part of the Educational Department's work. Among the places visited by the members might be mentioned the Co-operative Wholesale Society's premises in Manchester, when the price of tickets, including fare and sandwich tea, was only 1s. 3d. each. So popular was this excursion that it was repeated a year later, but at a charge of 1s. 4d. Waggonette trips have been organised to Northenden, Owens College, and Eccles (for the Manchester Ship Canal). Excursions have also been run to Chester, Liverpool, Grimsby, Cleethorpes, Rudyard Lake, Crumpsall Biscuit Works, Irlam Soap Works, Middleton Jam Works, &c. Great interest was taken in these excursions by the members, and they have done much to bring the members from various parts of the town into touch with one another, and thus have created a sense of comradeship, good feeling, and unity of purpose, all of which are essential to the well-being and development of the Society.

In 1895 the Hyde Borough Band was engaged to accompany a trip to Castleton. Evidently they were anxious to make their presence *heard* as well as *felt*. Prominent leaders of these excursions were Mr. S. Rawsthorne, Mr. W. Stanton, and Mr. Ben Abbott, &c. On Whit-Saturday, June 17th, 1905, Hyde joined with Ashton and Stalybridge Societies in an excursion to Stratford-on-Avon, the birthplace of Shakespeare. The charge was 11s. 3d. each, and included railway fare, drive to Warwick and Leamington, breakfast, and tea. There were 43 passengers from Hyde, 78 from Stalybridge, and 150 from Ashton. In its early days the department sent students to the Mechanics' Institute, Hyde, and the Astley Institute, Dukinfield, to the extent of about sixty per session. Students were allowed to choose their own subjects, and were granted fees up to a maximum of 8s. per student. The Educational Department also ran a shorthand class for two sessions. Mr. Heathcote, now a solicitor of Dukinfield, was the teacher of this class, and Mr. Robert Rose was a member.



WOODEND FARM—CHILDREN'S GALA.





The class was held in the New Connexion Schools, and it commenced with 120 members. A Branch Reading-room was opened at Gee Cross in 1889, and a Reference Library on January 5th, 1895.

In the year 1900 it was decided to disband the Committee for education, and on November 15th the management of the department was placed in the hands of the General Committee, with Mr. Rose as Secretary. From then to the present time they have met once a month for the transaction of educational business. The following have been Presidents, Secretaries, and Committee:—

PRESIDENTS: Messrs. W. Macfarlane, J. Andrew, J. Parsons, W. Harrison, W. Stanton, and J. W. Mountain.

SECRETARIES: Messrs. G. H. Parker, J. Andrew, and S. Rawsthorne.

COMMITTEE: Messrs. W. Scott, E. Rowbotham, B. Heywood, J. Lowe, W. Bunting, J. Bennett, J. Swindells, J. Jackson, J. Edwards, W. C. Cox, F. Oldham, J. T. Handforth, P. Marshall, and R. Potts.

The Central Reading-room in Charles Street was closed during the December quarter, 1902, the rooms being required for the extension of the tailoring business. Another reason for closing was a falling away of readers and borrowers on account of the opening of the Borough Free Library and Reading-room. Three years later—in 1905—the Gee Cross Reading-room was also closed. At the present time there is only one reading-room and library open. This is at Newton, and is under the care of Mr. G. Chapman. Here there is a lending library of about one thousand seven hundred volumes, and a reference library of nearly two hundred volumes, as well as a large, warm reading and games room. This library is a great boon to the members resident in Newton and Flowery Field. Since 1900 the Society has returned fees to a maximum of 6s. each to members or their children attending continuation or technical schools, provided they make



twenty attendances and sit for examination. The Society also offers scholarships from £1 to £3 for the best work done by students each session. The number of students attending classes through the Society for the session 1911 to 1912 was 281.

The "Wheatsheaf" has been issued free to the members since April, 1900. The Local Editor is Mr. Rose, who has held that onerous position from the commencement. The Committee also arranges a Children's Gala Day each year, when they are taken in procession to the farm, accompanied by bands of music. There they are regaled with refreshments, sports, &c. The attendance of children and adults on these occasions run into thousands. Since the commencement of the Educational Department in 1882 the Society has expended the sum of £7,200 in various ways towards the education and recreation of its members and their children.

Long may this educational work continue, especially in co-operative directions, for if a Co-operative Society would attain the true end and ideal of its being it must educate its members—men, women, and children—to a knowledge of the true principles of co-operative endeavour. Co-operative education must not be for a few; it must reach to all. By reason of its democratic constitution, a Co-operative Society, if it would be progressive, must have an educated membership.

Make no more giants, God; but elevate the race at once.—  
*Robert Browning.*



WOODEND FARM--CHILDREN'S GALA.



## CHAPTER X.

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“Of whole heart cometh hope.”—*Guild motto from the “Vision of Piers Plowman.”*

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### **Hyde Women's Co-operative Guild: Its Formation, and One or Two Facts relating to its History.**

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**O**N March 7th, 1900, a lecture and concert, arranged by the General Committee, was held in the New Connexion School, George Street. Mr. A. Whitehead (President of the Society) was in the chair, and Miss Reddish (Bolton) was the lecturer, her subject being “The Aims and Purposes of the Women's Co-operative Guild.” After the lecture a resolution to the effect that a branch be formed was passed. Forty of the women present responded and gave their names as intending members. Such was the inception of the Hyde Branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild. The first business meeting was held on March 12th, 1900, when the following officers were elected for the year: President, Mrs. Walker; Treasurer, Mrs. Harrison; Secretary, Miss A. Rose; Committee, Mesdames Ardern, Rose, Whitehead, Hibbert, Stott, and Whitworth. The opening was celebrated by a social in the Temperance Hall on March 27th, 1900, about 250 persons, both sexes, being present. At this meeting it was stated that lack of funds would not prevent the Guild from being a success, as the General Committee had kindly promised a grant, as well as having contributed to the expenses incurred. The early meetings of the Guild were held fortnightly in the Wesleyan Schools, Water Street. Membership entailed a quarterly subscription of 3d. It started with much enthusiasm, and with the

promise of doing a great work for the Society by organising the women and educating them in co-operative principles and duties. Soon after the commencement, however, interest in the work waned, and had it not been for a loyal few the branch might have gone out of existence. Great praise is due to those who, through trying times, have stuck to their posts. From the Wesleyan School the place of meeting was transferred to a room over the Tailoring Department in Charles Street; this was placed at their disposal by the General Committee in consequence of a decline in the Guild membership. In recent years owing to an increase in membership the Guild has been forced to leave the Society's premises and take a larger room for their meetings. They are now held in one of the rooms at Hyde Café, opposite the market ground. The Guild receives an annual grant of £10 from the Society's funds. All women members of the Society, or wives and daughters of members from the age of sixteen years, are eligible for membership. Lectures on subjects suitable for women, excursions to Co-operative Productive Works, rambles, and social evenings, are the chief features of their work. At the present time it is distinctly noticeable and encouraging to see the new spirit of comradeship and service which seems to be again taking possession of the branch. The Society must foster and encourage this fresh life, for within the Guild lie great possibilities and powers for augmenting the work of the Society. The aim of the Guild is to make better women, to raise them to a higher standard of living, to make them efficient housewives, good co-operators, and citizens. Such an aim must appeal to all women who have the advancement and welfare of their sex at heart.

Below we append the names of ladies who have occupied the presidential chair; also a list of Secretaries:—

PRESIDENTS.—Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Ardern, Mrs. Lees, Mrs. Pearson, and Mrs. Plevin.

SECRETARIES.—Miss A. Rose, Miss Stott, Mrs. Hadfield, and Mrs. Minney.





Standing—Mrs. LEES, Mrs. THOMPSON, Mrs. HILBERT, Mrs. COOPER.  
Sitting—Mrs. BARDSLEY, Mrs. MINNEY, Mrs. PLEVIN, Mrs. ARDERN.



## CHAPTER XI.

We should so live and labour in our time that what came to us as seed may go to the next generation as blossom, and that what came to us as blossom may go to them as fruit. This is what we mean by progress.—*Henry Ward Beecher.*

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### A Few Thoughts in Conclusion.

WE have now arrived at the end of the Society's fifty years' work, or as much as could be accommodated in these pages. It has had its failures and its successes, but its failures have not been in vain if in their place has risen a nobler or a better thing. "Our greatness is not in never failing, but in rising every time we fall." Truly much good has been accomplished in these fifty years. Its sales for the fifty years amount to £2,800,000, and during that time it has returned to the members in the form of dividend profits amounting to £380,000. In ordinary competitive business this profit would have gone to the merchant. Besides this it has spent and granted for the furtherance of education over £7,200, and from 1864 to the present its charitable gifts amount to £2,050. Through its cottage building fund it has loaned out to members for the erection of their own houses the sum of £25,800. Accompanying this great material success has been a moral success as well. Men have been taught the joy of serving their fellows, they have been shown the power and the immense capabilities of a democratic body, they have been taught the duties of citizenship, and received encouragement to go out and work for the good of the whole community. It has taught working men and women the two great lessons of thrift and self-help. Many, now past the bourne, have striven in times past and given of their best in the work of the Society. They have handed it on to the present generation better than they found it. It is the sacred duty of those engaged in its work at the present time, as well as members, to so work for its general advancement that they in their turn may hand it over to the succeeding generation, a firmer, nobler, and a more potent force for the uplifting of the people.

And departing leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time.—*H. W. Longfellow.*

## CHAPTER XII.

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And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof; it shall be a jubilee unto you.—*Leviticus* xxv., 10.

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### A Brief Account of the Jubilee Celebrations.

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**A**T the Bi-quarterly Meeting on February 26th, 1912, the manner of celebrating the Society's Jubilee was discussed, and it was decided that a nominal sum of £400 should be taken from the reserve fund for that purpose. A Committee was appointed, composed of the following, to make all necessary arrangements:—

#### JUBILEE COMMITTEE.

##### *Board of Management :*

Mr. A. SHAW, J.P. (President).		
Mr. A. MOORES.	Mr. P. MARSHALL.	Mr. R. A. GREEN.
„ J. BUNTING.	„ T. JONES.	„ J. MOTTRAM.
„ T. HEGGINBOTTOM.	„ J. OLDHAM.	

##### *Employees :*

MESSRS. EDWIN KEETON and JOSEPH RHODES.

##### *Members :*

Mr. S. RAWSTHORNE.	Mr. T. COOPER.	Mr. J. MARTIN.
„ J. OAKES.	„ W. ARDERN.	„ W. RADFORD.

##### *Women's Guild :*

Mrs. PLEVIN.      Mrs. COOPER.      Mrs. MINNEY.

##### *Ex-officio :*

Mr. A. H. BOOTH (General Manager) and Mr. R. ROSE (Secretary).

# JUBILEE COMMITTEE.



Back Row—S. RAWSTHORNE, R. A. GREEN, J. OLDHAM, J. OAKES, P. MARSHALL, J. BUNTING, T. COOPER, W. ARDERN.  
 Middle Row—T. HEGINBOTTOM, J. MOTTRAM, R. ROSE (*Secretary*), A. SHAW, J. P. (*President*), A. H. BOOTH (*Manager*),  
 A. MOORES, T. JONES.  
 Front Row—E. KEETON, J. RHODES, Mrs. MINNEY, Mrs. COOPER, Mrs. PLEVIN, J. MARTIN, W. RADFORD.





At their first meeting a scheme of celebrations was decided upon, and the following is a brief account of the same:—

#### EXHIBITION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY'S PRODUCTIONS.

*Sub-Committee* : Messrs. A. SHAW, J.P., T. COOPER, J. BUNTING, J. MOTTRAM, J. MARTIN, and J. RHODES.

The first event was an exhibition of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's productions in the Mechanics' Institute, from Wednesday, May 1st, to Saturday, May 4th. The exhibition occupied all the three floors of the Mechanics' Institute, and was comprised of various exhibits of Co-operative productions, machinery in motion, cigarette making, &c. There was also an exhibit of work done by the Hyde and District Co-operative Laundry Association. An orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. J. E. Lord, discoursed high-class music during the time the exhibition was open. There were two official opening ceremonies. The first, on Wednesday, May 1st, was by Mr. T. E. Moorhouse (Co-operative Wholesale Society's Director), who had for Chairman Mr. A. Shaw, J.P. (President). The second, on Saturday, May 4th, was by Mrs. M. J. Bury (Darwen), the Chairman being Alderman T. Perrin, J.P. (ex-Mayor of the borough). The exhibition was a great attraction, and during the four days it was open it is estimated that over 20,000 people paid it a visit. 1,775 shilling parcels of Co-operative Wholesale Society's productions were sold, and the receipts from refreshments and other things amounted to £149. Truly a great send-off for the Jubilee celebrations!

#### CHILDREN'S JUBILEE GALA.

*Sub-Committee* : Mrs. PLEVIN, Mrs. MINNEY, and Messrs. W. ARDERN, W. RADFORD, R. A. GREEN, J. OLDHAM, and E. KEETON.

The Children's Gala was held at the Farm on Saturday, June 22nd, the weather being all that could be desired—lovely sunshine. The children assembled in front of the Central Premises in Newton Street, where they were

marshalled prior to setting off for the farm. Headed by the Adamson Reed Band and the Kingston Mills Brass Band, the procession of children as they walked up Market Street four abreast was a magnificent sight. Woodend Farm has been the scene of many similar fêtes, but surely never a happier crowd of people disported themselves on the turf as was the case on this day. The children were supplied with buns, toffee, and an unlimited supply of lemonade. There were sports, Punch and Judy, ventriloquism, and balloons were sent up at intervals. The bands played selections of music as well as dances until dusk. Tea at a charge of 4d. each was served to the adults in a large marquee. The prizes won in the sports were presented to the children by Mr. A. Shaw, and the proceedings closed about 8-30 p.m. It is estimated there were 4,000 children and 1,500 adults present. In addition to the gala, all members' children under the age of fourteen years were presented with a souvenir pot, designated a "beaker," upon which was engraved, besides a floral design, the seal of the Society.

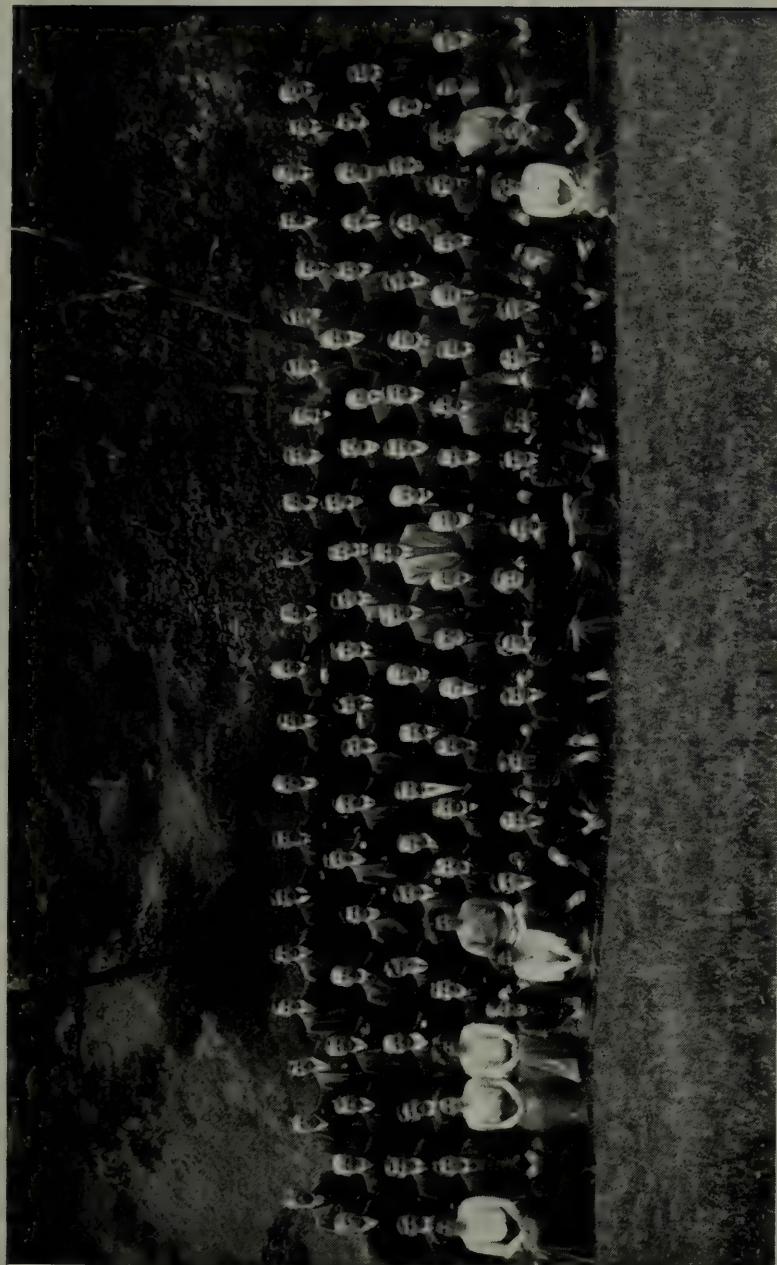
#### ENTERTAINMENTS.

*Sub-Committee:* MRS. COOPER and MESSRS. J. OAKES, P. MARSHALL, T. HEGGINBOTTOM, E. KEETON, and S. RAWSTHORNE.

On Tuesday, July 2nd, the premises of the Society were closed all day for the employees' Jubilee trip to Southport. Besides the usual railway fare being granted, they were entertained by the Jubilee Committee to a substantial breakfast and dinner. The outing was voted a great success. A group photograph was taken at the farm, Woodend Lane, of all officials and employees in the Society's service, as well as the Jubilee Committee, and a copy of such photograph was presented to each employee and member of the Committee.

#### OLD FOLKS' PARTY.

This was held on Saturday, September 28th, in the Union Street Schools. Upwards of 600 people over the age of sixty years were entertained to a sandwich tea and concert. A souvenir packet of chocolate was



EMPLOYEES AND JUBILEE COMMITTEE.





presented to each lady, and a packet of tobacco to each gentleman present. Mr. A. Shaw was the Chairman, and addressed them in a speech of a reminiscent character. The entertainment was provided by the Cadet Concert Party. Thus did the Society do homage to those who in their day served and laboured so well on its behalf. The following concerts were given in various parts of the district, each member of the Society being granted two free tickets. In each case first-class concert parties were engaged. Needless to say, they were all much appreciated and well attended.

Saturday, October 5th: Old Chapel Schools, Pickford Lane, Dukinfield. Chairman, Councillor George Dean.

Saturday, October 12th: Zion School, Stockport Road, Hyde. Chairman, Mr. J. Oakes.

Saturday, October 19th: Rosemount School, Newton. Chairman, Mr. S. Rawsthorne.

Saturday, October 26th: Union Street School, Hyde. Chairman, Mr. R. Rose (Secretary).

Saturday, November 9th: Union Street School, Hyde. Chairman, Mr. A. H. Booth (General Manager).

#### MEMBERS' SOUVENIR AND HISTORY BOOK.

*Sub-Committee* : MESSRS. T. JONES, A. MOORES, A. SHAW, J.P.,  
and J. RHODES.

In November, each member of the Society was presented with a Jubilee Souvenir, in the form of a crockery fruit tray, beautifully designed, and bearing on the inside a view of the Society's Central Premises. These were obtained from the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Crockery Department at Longton, Staffordshire.

The publication of this history is the final to a glorious year in the affairs of the Hyde Equitable Co-operative Society Limited.

## Appendix.

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### MEN WHO HAVE BEEN PRESIDENTS, AND YEAR WHEN FIRST ELECTED.

Mr. WILLIAM HOWE.....	1862	Mr. WILLIAM CLIFFORD ...	1871
„ PHILIP LLOYD .....	1863	„ ADAM VICKERS .....	1873
„ JOHN F. PARKER .....	1864	„ ALPHONSO WHITEHEAD	1876
„ JOHN AXON .....	1865	„ THOMAS HADFIELD ....	1878
„ JOHN HIBBERT .....	1867	„ WILLIAM WHYATT.....	1879
„ NOAH BENT .....	1868	„ HENRY EDWARDS.....	1882
„ RALPH B. CASH.....	1869	„ JOHN CATLOW .....	1886
„ JOSEPH SWINDELLS ...	1869	„ ALLEN SHAW .....	1887
„ SYDNEY FRANCE .....	1870	„ JAMES POLLARD.....	1890
„ RICHARD FURNESS.....	1870		

### MEN WHO HAVE SERVED THE SOCIETY ON THE COMMITTEE, AND YEARS WHEN FIRST ELECTED.

Mr. PHILIP LLOYD .....	1862	Mr. JOHN ETCHELLS .....	1876
„ JOHN F. PARKER .....	1862	„ THOMAS COOK.....	1876
„ RALPH B. CASH .....	1862	„ HENRY REDFERN .....	1876
„ JOHN HIBBERT .....	1862	„ THOMAS POLLITT .....	1877
„ SYDNEY FRANCE .....	1862	„ JAMES COOK .....	1877
„ JOHN AXON.....	1862	„ ELIAS SHELMERDINE...	1877
„ WILLIAM HOWE.....	1862	„ ALFRED TAYLOR.....	1878
„ RICHARD FURNESS.....	1863	„ HENRY EDWARDS .....	1878
„ NOAH BENT .....	1865	„ JOHN HOPKINSON .....	1878
„ JOSEPH SWINDELLS ....	1869	„ HENRY PLANT .....	1878
„ THOS. WALMSLEY .....	1869	„ JOHN CATLOW.....	1878
„ WILLIAM CLIFFORD ....	1870	„ JOHN LEIGH .....	1879
„ ADAM VICKERS .....	1871	„ GEORGE FARRAND.....	1879
„ JOHN HAYWARD.....	1871	„ HENRY HENSTOCK.....	1879
„ JOHN BOOTH .....	1871	„ WILLIAM SMAWFIELD..	1880
„ JOSEPH SHAWCROSS ...	1873	„ WILLIAM STANTON.....	1880
„ JAMES BRADDOCK.....	1873	„ WILLIAM ETCHELLS ...	1880
„ JAMES GRIME .....	1874	„ JAMES FLETCHER .....	1880
„ JAMES HALLIWELL.....	1874	„ PAUL BENNETT .....	1880
„ ANDREW NICKELS .....	1874	„ DAN ANDREW.....	1881
„ ALPHONSO WHITEHEAD	1876	„ JONATHAN ANDREW ...	1881
„ THOMAS HADFIELD ....	1876	„ THOMAS PROCTOR .....	1881
„ JOHN WHEWELL.....	1876	„ JOHN TETLOW.....	1882
„ JOSEPH MOTTRAM .....	1876	„ ALLEN SHAW .....	1883
„ JOHN RUSCOE.....	1876	„ JAMES BRADBURY.....	1883
„ WILLIAM SHAW .....	1876	„ JOHN LEIGH .....	1883
„ WILLIAM WHYATT.....	1876	„ GEORGE POTTS .....	1884

Mr. JOHN SHAWCROSS .....	1884	Mr. JOHN W. SHRIGLEY....	1895
„ ELI BRIDGE .....	1884	„ SAMUEL SHORE .....	1896
„ GEORGE MACFARLANE..	1884	„ WILLIAM TATE.....	1896
„ TOM BENNISON .....	1885	„ JAMES LEIGH .....	1896
„ ELIJAH ROWBOTHAM ...	1885	„ THOMAS MARKLAND ...	1896
„ THOMAS NUTTALL .....	1886	„ SAMUEL ROBERTS .....	1897
„ SAMUEL BARKER .....	1886	„ WILLIAM ARDERN .....	1897
„ JAMES WOLSTENHOLME	1886	„ HENRY LEES .....	1897
„ EDWIN HARDMAN .....	1887	„ THOMAS RENNIE .....	1897
„ JOHN STOTT .....	1887	„ ALBERT MOORES.....	1897
„ GEO. HENRY PARKER...	1888	„ HENRY HAMMOND .....	1898
„ BENJAMIN ROBINSON ...	1888	„ HENRY WARHURST ...	1899
„ ALFRED CLOUGH.....	1889	„ JOSHUA BUNTING .....	1899
„ THOS. SHUFFLEBOTHAM	1889	„ THOMAS PRATT .....	1899
„ SAMUEL NALL.....	1889	„ JOHN HOOLEY.....	1900
„ JAMES E. THORLEY ...	1889	„ JOHN W. MOUNTAIN ...	1900
„ WILLIAM DUNKERLEY..	1890	„ PHILIP MARSHALL .....	1900
„ THOMAS WHITWORTH...	1890	„ JOSEPH BEGLEY .....	1900
„ DAVID LEWIS .....	1890	„ THOMAS DAY .....	1901
„ JONATHAN BUNTING ...	1890	„ SAMUEL BARBER .....	1901
„ ANDREW SWANN.....	1892	„ THOMAS JONES.....	1901
„ WILLIAM BUCKLEY.....	1892	„ SAMUEL RAWSTHORNE..	1902
„ JOHN SMITH .....	1893	„ RICHARD A. GREEN ..	1904
„ FRANK HADFIELD.....	1893	„ JOSEPH MOTTRAM .....	1904
„ REUBEN HARGREAVES .	1894	„ THOMAS HEGINBOTTOM	1907
„ JAMES WILDE .....	1895	„ WILLIAM DAWSON .....	1909
„ LUKE KENNY .....	1895	„ JAMES OLDHAM .....	1911

## SECRETARIES.

Mr. JOHN SMITH.	Mr. JOHN SCHOFIELD.
„ MICHAEL NADIN.	„ ROBERT ROSE.

## MANAGERS.

Mr. WM. PLATT HEGINBOTHAM.	Mr. JOHN SCHOFIELD.
„ MICHAEL NADIN.	„ WM. HY. STOTT.
„ BERNARD CHARLESWORTH.	„ ALFRED H. BOOTH.

## AUDITORS.

Mr. JAMES SHAW.	Mr. EDWIN WARHURST.
„ JOSHUA FRANCE.	„ JOHN BURKINSHAW.
„ JOHN F. PARKER.	Messrs. BROOME, MURRAY, & Co.
„ JAMES GRIME.	Mr. DAVID WEST.
„ ANDREW NICKELS.	Messrs. APPLEBY and WOOD.
„ WM. BARKER.	

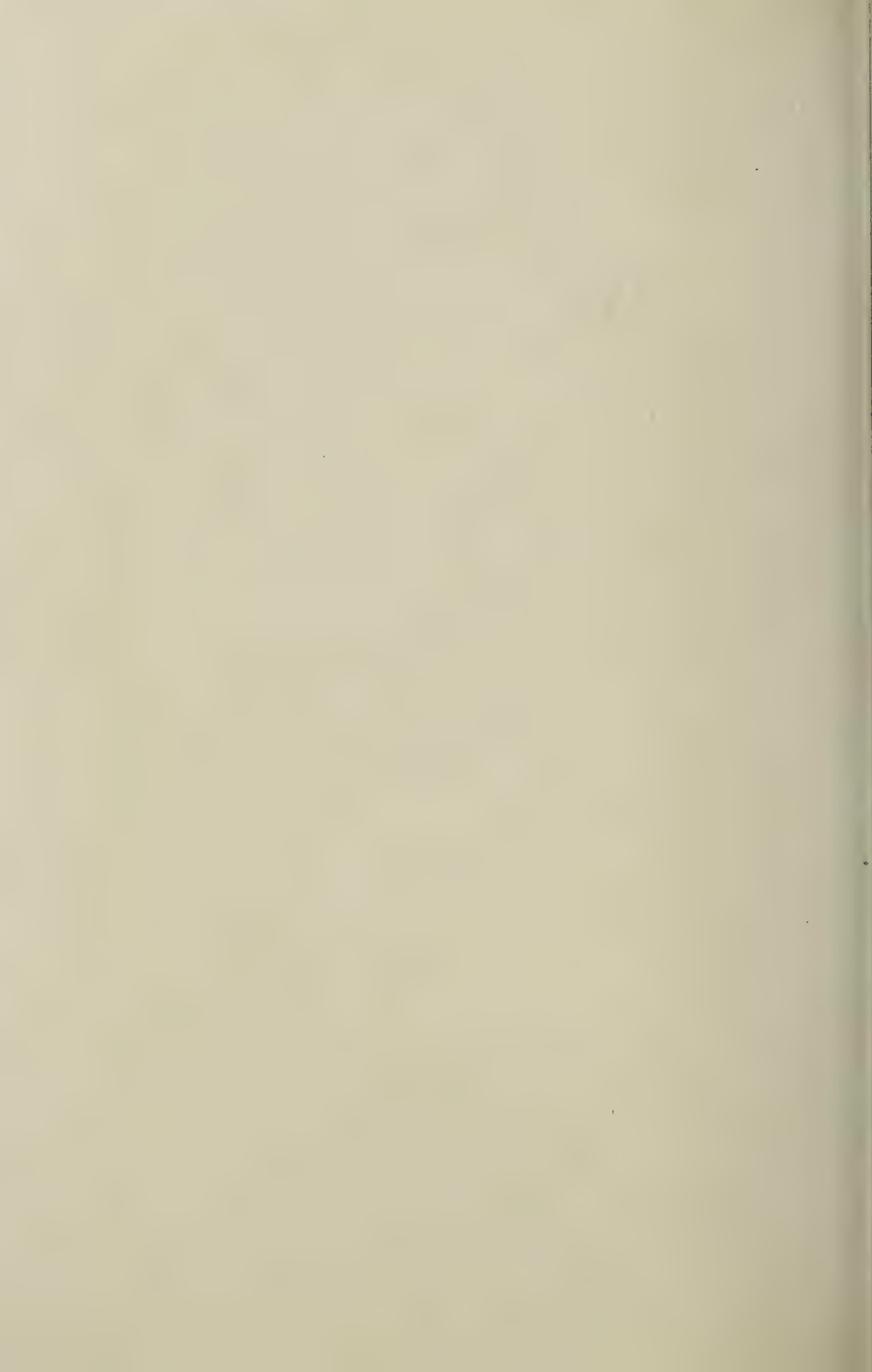
## TREASURERS.

Mr. WILLIS KNOWLES.	Mr. THOMAS COOKE.
„ JAMES GRIME.	„ JOHN ETCHELLS.
„ JOSEPH SWINDELLS.	„ JOHN BREDBURY.
„ JOHN HEWITT.	„ ANDREW NICKELS.
„ JAMES WORRALL.	„ ABRAHAM ASHTON.

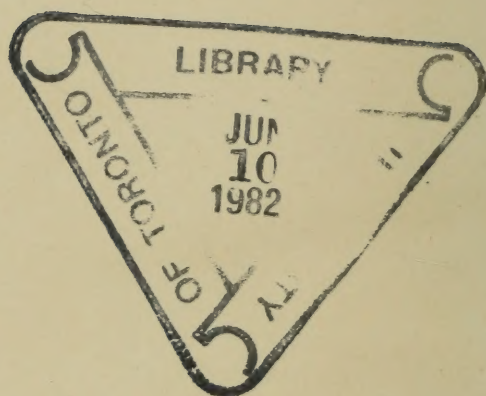












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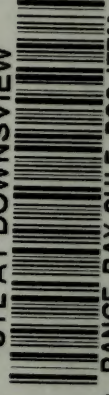
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